



PRAYER

& FASTING

**21
DAYS**

**DEVO-
TIONAL**



LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

**20
23**

Dear Friends,

We are beginning a season in which you have the opportunity to experience God in a very special and unique way through 21 Days of Prayer and Fasting. This isn't about losing weight or trying to start the New Year with more discipline. 21 Days is about creating fresh space in our souls for the Holy Spirit to move. It's about saying 'no' to a few good things so we can say 'yes' to something even better - more of Jesus.

In John 8.12 Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." This time of prayer and fasting is about seeking Jesus' light which leads to life that never disappoints. And no matter what darkness may be present in your life, Jesus' light is powerful enough to overcome it.

I want to encourage you to fully engage in intentionally seeking God during this season. Don't just go through the motions or coast on some sort of spiritual auto-pilot. Identify things you can fast from that will prompt you to pray and depend on Christ in new ways. Find new times or ways to engage in prayer that will breathe fresh spiritual life into your soul. I would even suggest you involve others in your 21 Days journey for mutual support and encouragement.

Jesus is the light of the world and His light brings life. There will never be a sacrifice you regret if that sacrifice makes more room for Jesus.

Praying for you these 21 days,

Brian

Pastor Brian

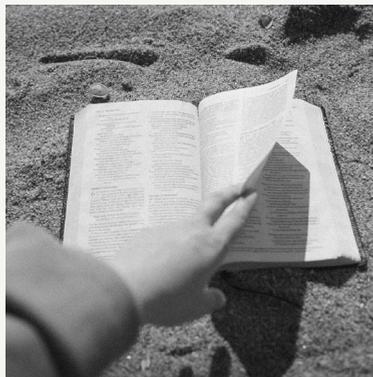


More on Prayer & Fasting

To learn more about what fasting is and how to do it,
check out our webpage at engedichurch.com/21days

Save the Date / Jan 26, 2023

Join us in person for our first ever 24-hour Prayer and Worship event - BURN.
We will be gathering together at our Holland Campus on **Thursday January 26**
for this powerful 24-hour immersive prayer experience. Find all the details
and sign up at engedichurch.com/21days





To the amazing team that contributed your time and talent in creating this devotional - whoot whoots and high fives all around! And special thanks to Heather Haveman for volunteering your time, wisdom and passion to this project. The final result is a treasure to hold.

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WEEK 01
PURE



DAYS 1-7

You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

MATTHEW 5:14-16



LIGHT *of the world*

MON. DAY 01



Genesis 1:1-5 / John 8:12 / Revelation 7:9-11, 21:22-24

God created light. He didn't flip a switch or screw in a lightbulb; God created light out of nothing, generating light as we know it from the very nature of God himself. So when Jesus, God in the flesh, arrives, He declares himself "the light of the world." We'll spend a lot of time over these next three weeks thinking about what this means. But before we go any further, let's make sure we have a complete picture: the day is coming when the sun, moon, and stars - those heavenly bodies created by God to shine light and sustain life on this planet - will not be needed. In the new, heavenly city, "the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it." In other words, when Jesus returns and the fullness of Christ's Kingdom comes, God's glory will shine so brightly and purely, even the sun will pale in comparison!



Stand in awe of God for a moment. Then give Him praise as the Light of the World: God the Father, the source and creator of the created light we use and experience daily. Jesus Christ, the Son, brings us from spiritual darkness to spiritual light. The Holy Spirit guides us into all truth and teaches us to walk in the light as He is in the light. God most glorious - the Light of the World!



Revelation 7:9 paints a beautiful picture of the New Creation where a "great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language" will worship together before the throne of Jesus. Pray that God would engage your heart in this vision and that our King would receive the glory He is due.

Notes:

Separating LIGHT from DARKNESS

TUES. DAY 02

Genesis 1:14-19 / Exodus 14:19-20 / Ephesians 5:8-14



The creation account says that God created the sun and the moon “to separate light from darkness” (Gen 1:18). Or consider when God leads the Israelites out of Egypt with a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night - at some point this cloud stood between the two armies, separating them completely, with light on one side and darkness on the other. Pure light cannot be mixed with darkness. When we are called by God into the Kingdom of Light, we are called to be completely separated from darkness, to walk in complete purity. Have you been living as a child of light? Where have you been mixed up with “fruitless deeds of darkness” (Eph 5:11)?

Ephesians 5:11 instructs us to “expose” the fruitless deeds of darkness. Take time today to confess to the Light of the World where you have failed to be separated from darkness, and remember that you are called to be a child of light.



As the local church, Engedi is called to be a community of light. Pray today for the pastors and leaders of Engedi. Pray for the Elders and other ministry leaders as well. Pray that God would grant our leaders the wisdom and grace to walk in purity, in clarity of vision, and in unity, as they lead the entire church in walking as children of the light.



Notes:

CONSUMING *Fire*

WED. DAY 03



Exodus 3:1-6 / Deuteronomy 4:23-24 / Hebrews 12:28-29

Near the end of his life, Moses calls God a "consuming fire" (Deut 4:24). This is an interesting description of God, coming from the man who first encountered God's presence in the form of a fire that was not consuming the bush it was burning. So what does it mean for God to be a consuming fire? The term contains two important ideas: first, that God is utterly holy and righteous, like a fire that purifies gold by consuming the impurities and leaving what is pure. This is why God told Moses to take off his sandals, for God's presence at the burning bush made the land around it holy. The second idea is that God will judge in perfect righteousness all those who oppose him. When Moses used this term, he was warning the Israelites to not turn away from God, or they might be justly destroyed. In the Old Testament sacrificial system, several of the sacrifices included specific instructions to allow the fire on the altar to completely burn up the meat being offered. In Romans 12:1, we are told to offer our bodies as living sacrifices, that the Consuming Fire might continually purify us and cause us to be holy, blameless, and pure before Him at His coming.



In Christ Jesus, we are no longer enemies of God to be destroyed, but chosen by Him to be pure and righteous. Thank Jesus for His good work of purifying us from all unrighteousness, leading us in the way of sanctification, and making us new and right with Him.



As Jesus gave Himself completely for our sake, pray that Engedi would be a body of believers that gives generously and abundantly. Pray especially for the reach and impact of the Kingdom Builders fund. Pray for the 42% of the world's population that has no access to the Gospel.

Notes:

STUDY

Exodus 25:31-40,
Psalm 119:7-9, Rev 21:23,
2 Corinthians 4:6

A Lamp

THURS. DAY 04

Numbers 8:1-4 / Psalm 119:105 / Luke 11:33-36



God gave specific instructions for the building of the tabernacle in the Old Testament because each item is rich in symbolism and meaning. The lampstand, made of pure gold, was to be set facing forward, to give light to the area in front of it. In the same way, God's Word is a lamp to our feet, guiding and giving light to our next steps. Of course, we have the gift of knowing that God's Word is not just words on a page but is Jesus Himself (Rev 21:23). Perhaps that offers new insight into why we are called to "fix our eyes on Jesus" (Hebrews 12:2), so that our eyes, the lamp of our body, may perceive that which is pure and holy and good. It is in this way that "your whole body also is full of light." May the lamp of God's Word both guide us as it shines in front of us, and fill us as we set our eyes on Christ, the Word of God.

Ask God to give light to your eyes, causing you to perceive properly and purely. Ask for grace to guard your eyes and your heart from anything that is impure. And praise God for guiding you with the light of His word, asking for wisdom and understanding as you continue to press into intimacy with Jesus as you read the Bible.



Through the living and active work of the Bible (Hebrews 4:12), God's word transforms us and brings us into a right relationship with Christ. More than 1,600 languages today are still waiting for a Bible translation project to begin. Pray for the acceleration of Bible translation through the work of our partner The Seed Company. Pray that new projects would be initiated and existing projects would be completed so that every people group would have access to the Bible in their own language.



Notes:

RIGHTEOUSNESS & Justice

Isaiah 58:5-9,
Zephaniah 3:5

STUDY

FRI. DAY 05



Isaiah 5:20 & 42:5-7 / Luke 4:16-21

Part of the call to purity as we walk in the light of Christ is a commitment to God's perfect and holy righteousness and justice. Just as light is separated from darkness (see this past Tuesday's devotional), good is meant to be separated from evil, right from wrong, and just from unjust. At the very beginning of Jesus' ministry, He read from Isaiah 61:1-2 in the synagogue and declared that it was fulfilled in their day - Jesus was anointed by the Spirit to proclaim the good news of freedom, healing, and favor to those in need. This was Jesus' calling, and it is ours as well. Isaiah 42 reminds us that we are called in righteousness to pursue justice. Where do you see injustice in the world around you? How might God be asking you to proclaim the good news in that context?



Pray for the areas of injustice you see around you - in your family, in your neighborhood and community, in the nation, and in the world. Ask God to increase your passion for His justice, and to give you wisdom and strength in proclaiming the good news in the midst of darkness and injustice.



Pray also for the specific work and impact of Engedi's Local Missional Life department. Pray for the men and women seeking support from Gateway Mission Center to break the cycles of poverty and addiction. Pray for wisdom for our leaders as they strategize with our partners on the front lines. Pray for an abundance of volunteers to respond to God's call to demonstrate and proclaim the transformational power of Jesus to our local communities so that God's light will shine brighter in our city and surrounding areas.

Notes:

WALK *in the Light*

SAT. DAY 06

Psalm 89:14-15 / 1 John 1:5-7 / 1 Thessalonians 5:5-8



Consider again the purity of God: He is light, with no darkness in Him at all. The foundation of His throne is righteousness and justice. He is holy, pure, and perfect in all His ways. The psalmist says that we are blessed when we walk in the light of God's presence. John clarifies this truth by saying that when we walk in the light we have fellowship with one another and the blood of Jesus purifies us from all sin. God's purity becomes our purity, by the abundant grace of Jesus Christ and the blood He shed. No wonder we can declare in faith that we are children of the light. May we walk as such!

Declare this out loud. "I do not belong to darkness, but am a child of the light. My sins have been forgiven, purified by the blood of Jesus, and I walk in fellowship with God. I can walk in the light as He is in the light, for He is in me. Faith and love are my breastplate and the hope of salvation is my helmet."



As we near the end of this first week, we have already prayed for Engedi's pastors and leaders. But there are many others who work hard each week behind the scenes to keep the work and ministry of Engedi moving forward. Pray today for all of the staff at Engedi, that they would know their identity as children of the light and would live accordingly. Pray also that each staff person would be personally blessed and encouraged by their Heavenly Father during the remainder of these 21 days. (For a full list of Engedi's staff, check out engedichurch.com/staff).



Notes:

Selah

SUN. DAY 07



Psalm 148:1-6 (NLT):

"Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise him from the skies! Praise him, all his angels! Praise him, all the armies of heaven! Praise him, sun and moon! Praise him, all you twinkling stars! Praise him, skies above! Praise him, vapors high above the clouds! Let every created thing give praise to the Lord, for he issued his command, and they came into being. He set them in place forever and ever. His decree will never be revoked."



Our God, the Light of the World, is perfect in purity and worthy of all praise. "His name alone is exalted; his splendor is above the earth and the heavens." Take time today to praise God for who He is and for all He has done in your life. Consider ways that you can authentically demonstrate your love for God. What are ways that you feel challenged in worship? Is there a way that you might step out of your comfort zone as you worship God this week? Write it down. Share it with a friend. And give it a try!

You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

Notes:





WEEK 02
PRESENT



DAYS 8-14

In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and *the darkness has not overcome it.*

JOHN 1:4-5



GOD'S *dwelling place*

MON. DAY 08



2 Chronicles 5:13-14 / John 1:9, 14 / Acts 2:1-4

When Solomon finished building the temple and all of Israel worshiped the Lord, we read that "the priests could not perform their service because of the cloud, for the glory of the LORD filled the temple of God." The temple was meant to be God's dwelling place among His people - but that physical building could never be sufficient. Rather, Jesus, the manifest glory of God and the true light of the world, came into the world "and made his dwelling among us." But that's not the end: when Jesus returned to the Father, He promised to send another. On Pentecost, we see God's people gathered for worship when a sound came, the wind blew, and tongues of fire rested on each person's head. The Holy Spirit fills God's people, making His dwelling within us.



Throughout Scripture, we see that God wants to dwell among - and within - His people. Give praise to this ever-present God, the One who chooses to make His dwelling among us. Praise Him for sending Jesus in the flesh, and for filling us now with the Holy Spirit. Praise Him for the time to come when God will again dwell among His people in the new heaven and the new earth (Rev. 21:1-3).



The local expressions of the global Church remind us in a tangible way that God wants to dwell among and within us. Pray today for each Engedi Church campus: for Engedi Espanol, Grand Rapids Campus, Holland Campus, and for everyone who joins online from around the globe. Pray that each would be a vibrant example of God's dwelling among us as we worship God, serve others, and bless others with servant love.

Notes:

STUDY

1 Timothy 6:13-16, Psalm
80:1-3, Proverbs 16:15,
Zephaniah 3:17

MAY HIS *face* *shine* UPON YOU

TUES. DAY 09

Numbers 6:22-26



In the Ancient Near East, the gods were far away, in another realm, simply needing to be appeased once in a while so you could live your life without their interference. So imagine how strange it must have sounded that Israel's God wanted to "make His face shine on you" and "turn His face toward you" - to give you peace! Even within Israel, their leader Moses had been told that "no one may see [God's face] and live" (Exodus 33:20), so what is this about God shining His face on us? And why do we use this blessing even today? The truth is, in His pure and perfect holiness, God lives in "unapproachable light" (1 Timothy 6:16) and in our sin, we cannot possibly look upon such perfection, such holiness, and live. But God never wanted to be separated from us, so He made a way to make Himself known to us without causing our judgment. That way is Jesus: perfectly pure, without sin, yet He took on the death we deserved because of our sin. Jesus once told his disciple that "anyone who has seen me has seen the Father" (John 14:9), a reminder that through Christ, we can look upon God's face and live - or have God's face shine upon us, and count it a blessing!

If you are in Christ, all of your sins have already been paid for at the cross, so you need not fear bringing them into the light to be exposed (c.f. John 3:19-21). Confess your sins, therefore, to God who is holy and pure. And be assured of His faithfulness to forgive you and His eagerness to bless you as He looks upon you with love.



Pray that God would pour out His favor on Engedi Church in the coming year, leading with clarity and causing His church to experience spiritual growth. Pray that as a body of believers, we encounter the brilliant glory of God as we are refined, purified, and transformed more and more into His likeness.



Notes:

WHEN THE *light* goes out

WED. DAY 10

STUDY
Psalms 23:4, Isaiah 45:5-7,
Hebrews 4:14-16



Exodus 10:21-23 / Amos 8:9-10 / Luke 23:44-46

God is light, but according to Scripture, God is sovereign over darkness, too. When Pharaoh refused to let God's people go, one of the last plagues - or signs of God's power - was the plague of darkness. Darkness covered Egypt, but God's people in the region of Goshen had light. Centuries later, the prophet Amos prophesied of another day coming when God would cause the earth to be dark in the middle of the day - and we see that happen for three hours in the afternoon on the day that Jesus died. Darkness came over the whole land as the Light of the World was crucified. Sometimes we also experience darkness, even though we have been brought into the Kingdom of Light. But take heart: God has command over both the light and the dark. The greatest work of God in all of history was revealed through three hours of darkness - how much more will He be faithful in whatever hour of light or dark you are going through?



Give thanks to the God who is present even in our darkest hours, working all things for our good and revealing His purposes. Thank Him for the gift of eternal life, secured on our behalf in those dark hours as Jesus Christ gave up His life for us. We have a Savior who understands what it means to endure darkness, yet is sovereign over all! Thanks be to God!



Over 360 million Christians are living in places where they experience high levels of persecution and discrimination. Pray for believers in these places of extreme darkness to persevere and remain strong in their hope in Jesus.

Pray also for the more than 10,000 children in Michigan's foster care system. Pray for the light of Jesus to penetrate the darkness of their situation. Pray for local organizations to find safe and loving homes as they work with biological parents through the process of reunification.

Notes:

Joy COMES in the MORNING

THURS. DAY 11

Psalm 30:1-5 / Luke 24:1-8



The women expected to spend their morning in a dark cave, lovingly caring for the cold, foul-smelling body of their Lord. Instead, they encountered "two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning," pronouncing the incredible news, "He is risen! Life and light intertwined. Yesterday we were reminded that God is sovereign even over the darkness, but today let's also remember that God has a way of bringing light out of darkness. Can you say together with the psalmist that God has "lifted me out of the depths and... brought me up from the realm of the dead?" We will encounter darkness in this life, but darkness is never the final word; rejoicing - with new life and gleaming light - comes in the morning! Jesus, the Light of the World, is alive!

Remind me, O God, that I have been crucified with Christ, and that I share in both His death and His resurrection. When I face darkness, grant me hope that Light will shine again. When I rejoice, remind me that it is by Your mercy and grace that I have been brought from darkness to light and from death to life. In Jesus' name.

Pray for the kids, students, and young adult ministries at Engedi, that many lives would be transformed through these ministries as they learn the truth and experience the reality that in Christ, death is followed by resurrection, and darkness is transformed into light. Pray for the leaders and all those serving as volunteers in these ministries to be filled with wisdom and knowledge as they equip the next generation.



Notes:

SET *free* FROM *darkness*

FRI. DAY 12

STUDY

Psalms 119:105, Psalm
16:9-11, 2 Corinthians
3:16-18



Exodus 13:20-22 / Acts 12:5-11 / John 8:12

God led the Israelites straight out of slavery in the form of a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. When an angel of the Lord showed up in Peter's prison cell, shining a light in the middle of the darkness, Peter's chains fell off and he walked right past the guards and through the gate into the city. These stories appropriately come to mind when we hear Jesus' invitation: "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." Will we follow the Light and be set free, as both the Israelites and Peter did?



The Israelites had Moses to go before Pharaoh, and Peter had the church "earnestly praying to God for him" (Acts 12:5). Who do you know that needs the "light of life"? Who needs to experience freedom in Christ? Pray and intercede on their behalf, asking that the Light of the World show up in their lives and do a mighty work.



Pray for the community life of Engedi, especially our small groups. Pray that these more intimate gatherings would be like the church that "earnestly prayed" for Peter, walking together through both the hardest and the best moments. Pray also that as our small groups encounter the Light of life, many would experience freedom and wholeness in Christ. Finally, if you are in a group, intercede today for the other members of your group as specifically as you can – and if you are not yet in a group, consider joining one. Visit engedichurch.com/groups for more info.

Notes:

A *Light* FOR THE *World*

SAT. DAY 13

Acts 26:12-18 / Matthew 5:14-16

When Jesus revealed Himself from heaven in a light "brighter than the sun," Paul's entire life changed. That's the power of the Light of the World -- it transforms lives! But consider even more carefully how Paul's life changed. In that incredible encounter, Jesus commissions Paul as His very own servant and witness to the Gentiles (or to the nations). If you have encountered Jesus, then you have received the very same commission: to go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything He has commanded you. Put another way, once we encounter the One who shines brighter than the sun, we are to reflect that light to the whole world. Let your light shine so that the Father in heaven may be glorified!

Declare these words out loud. "With Jesus, I am the light of the world. I am called and equipped by God Himself to reflect His Light in a dark and needy world. I will shine brightly, giving light to those around me, letting others see my good deeds in order to bring praise to my Father in heaven."

Pray for those who have been sent by Engedi to the nations long-term. Pray that they would be encouraged, thrive in the place they are serving, and experience the Holy Spirit working through them to extend the love of Jesus. Pray also for those who strategically support these sent ones by serving on Engedi's sending team, member care team, and global prayer team.

Notes:



Selah

SUN. DAY 14



Psalm 139:1-12

"O Lord, you have examined my heart and know everything about me. You know when I sit down or stand up. You know my thoughts even when I'm far away. You see me when I travel and when I rest at home. You know everything I do. You know what I am going to say even before I say it, Lord. You go before me and follow me. You place your hand of blessing on my head. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too great for me to understand!

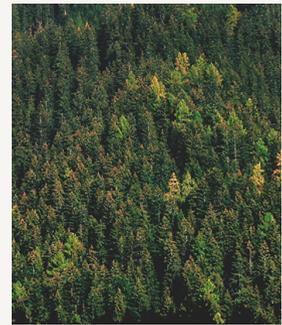
I can never escape from your Spirit! I can never get away from your presence! If I go up to heaven, you are there; if I go down to the grave, you are there. If I ride the wings of the morning, if I dwell by the farthest oceans, even there your hand will guide me, and your strength will support me. I could ask the darkness to hide me and the light around me to become night - but even in darkness I cannot hide from you. To you the night shines as bright as day. Darkness and light are the same to you."



Spend time today acknowledging God's intimate presence in your life - in the good things, in the hard things, in your past, and holding your future. Allow God to reveal even more fully how He has been and continues to be at work in your life. Allow Him to search you, and ask Him to lead you as you continue to trust in Him.

In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Notes:





WEEK 03
Powerful



DAYS 15-21

The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, *for the glory of God gives it light*, and the Lamb is its lamp. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it.

REVELATION 21:23-24



Light in the Darkness

THE *power of the* GOSPEL

STUDY

Matthew 4:12-17,
Luke 2:8-14

MON. DAY 15



Isaiah 9:2-7 / Luke 1:11-13, 26-38

Angels showed up on the scene to announce what the prophet Isaiah had already spoken long before: a child would be born. But this wasn't just any child. According to Isaiah 9, the birth of Jesus – the God-man – would be a complete reversal of the kingdom of this world. Those in darkness would walk in the light; the nation of God's chosen ones would increase and rejoice; the yoke would be shattered and the battle would be over. And in its place – in the place of a social order marked by injustice and inequality, and in the place of our brokenness and darkness and sin – God himself would establish and uphold justice and righteousness. This is the Good News of Jesus Christ: we are offered salvation for our souls and we are invited into the upside-down Kingdom of God.



"The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this." Use the words of Isaiah 9:2-7 to praise the Lord today. Try writing out a song of praise from your own heart as you consider the power of worshiping the one true God with your whole life.



Pray for the work of Positive Options and other pregnancy resource centers in their support of women and men that are struggling with a pregnancy decision. Pray that Engedi will become a safe refuge for women and men dealing with post-abortive decisions.

Notes:

STUDY

Isaiah 49:1-12, Habakkuk
2:14, Philippians 2:9-11

LIGHT *for the* *whole* WORLD

TUES. DAY 16

Isaiah 49:5-6 / Acts 13:44-48



Isaiah 49:1-12 is the second of four "servant songs" in the book of Isaiah. The poem finds its ultimate fulfillment in Jesus Christ, the Servant of God, yet it also reflects the calling of all servants of God – including us. In verse 6, we read that "it is too small a thing" for God's servant to only bring healing and restoration to the chosen people Israel; rather, God's intention all along has been to "make [us] a light for the Gentiles," that the salvation of the Lord would "reach to the ends of the earth." When Paul and Barnabas were sharing the good news about Jesus in Pisidian Antioch, they used this verse to describe their own calling – not just to bring their message to the Jews, but to shine as a light for all people. The Gospel is meant for the whole world, and we as God's servants are called to shine as lights among the nations as we advance the Kingdom revolution of Jesus worldwide!

Where has your vision for what God is doing in and through you been too small? Confess this to the Lord, and ask Him to expand your vision and enlarge your reach, "that His salvation may reach to the ends of the earth."



Pray for the many people who will sense God's call on their lives this year to serve internationally through Engedi. Ask God to give each one of them the clarity and courage to overcome barriers so that they take the next step He is leading them to take. Pray for all the short-term trips that Engedi will send this year, that they may be rich opportunities for expanded vision and enlarged reach. And pray for those Engedi has sent to the nations for a mid-term assignment, that God would guide their experiences and grant clarity for their next steps.



Notes:

BRIGHT *Morning Star*

WED. DAY 17



Numbers 24:17-18 / Matthew 2:1-2 / Revelation 22:12-16

Of all the names of Jesus, the "bright Morning Star" is perhaps one of the least familiar. But it is the last thing Jesus calls himself at the end of the book of Revelation (before his final words, "Yes, I am coming soon"). So what does this name mean? Way back in the book of Numbers, the prophet Balaam spoke of a "star" coming out of Jacob that would crush the enemy nations and cause Israel to flourish. When Jesus was born, "his star" supernaturally led the Magi from the East to the exact location of this newborn King. But the rest of Balaam's prophecy has yet to be completely fulfilled - the "morning star" lights up the dark sky just before dawn, a sign of hope that light is coming, that the sun is about to rise. Jesus declares himself the "bright Morning Star" within this context of announcing that He is "coming soon" - the Son is returning to announce a new day. So we can anticipate with eager hope and expectation Christ's second coming when His throne will be established forever and all nations will bow before Him.



Jesus Christ, the Bright Morning Star, the Victorious One, sits enthroned over the nations! Give thanks for the hope that we have of Christ's final return to establish the new heavens and the new earth. And give thanks to the Lord of lords and King of kings, who calls us His children and causes us to share in Christ's inheritance – the promise of the nations!



Pray for the work of Engedi's global partners including nationally-led churches, church planting organizations, missions training and sending agencies, and Bible translation initiatives operating primarily among unreached people groups.

Notes:

Shine LIKE STARS

THURS. DAY 18

Numbers 14:26-29 / Philippians 2:14-18



God led the Israelites out of Egypt in order to set them apart as His people - chosen, blameless, and a sign to the nations around them that the LORD is God. Throughout the stories in Exodus and Numbers, we see the Israelites repeatedly grumbling and complaining against the very One who had brought them out of slavery. As Paul wrote to the believers at Philippi, this shared story of the Israelites complaining in the wilderness would have been in his mind when he instructed them, "Do everything without grumbling or arguing." In other words, don't be like the Israelites before you, but instead, shine like stars in the midst of the wickedness and darkness around you. We, too, were chosen by God to be a sign to those around us - shining brightly of the light of Christ who never complained, even as He was led to His death.

Ask God to convict you of any grumbling, complaining, or attitude that fails to reflect Christ's light. Pray that God helps you to grow and mature so that the light that shines from you represents Jesus above all else. As you shine Christ's light in this world pray that many will see God's glory and respond.



Pray that the various classes offered through Engedi would result in participants growing spiritually and forming into fully devoted followers of Jesus. Especially pray that our Alpha groups and Freedom groups would help people find truth and freedom. Pray that these would be spaces where Christ's light is reflected powerfully. Pray also for those enrolled in the Engedi Leadership School this year, that God would set them apart in unique ways as ambassadors of Christ to their spheres of influence.



Notes:

FAITH *not sight*

FRI. DAY 19

STUDY

2 Corinthians 5:7,
Hebrews 13:8, James
11:16-18



Genesis 1:1-3 / Hebrews 11:1-3

Theologians sometimes talk about God creating *ex nihilo* - "out of nothing." We see this in Genesis 1:2 in the language of formless, empty, and darkness. As we have said before, God didn't flip a switch to turn on the light; He created the light, "out of nothing," using no raw materials, but rather generating all of that creative power from His own essence and being. In Hebrews 11, this idea of God creating "out of nothing" is paired with a call to have faith, hope, and confidence - if God can create light out of nothing in the midst of darkness, how much more can He do in your life?! Perhaps you have experienced seasons in your life where it looked like nothing was happening. The truth is that God is always at work - and He is able to create "out of nothing," even when our prayers are formless, we are empty, and our circumstances look dark. Let's walk by faith and not by sight, trusting that the Father of Lights has good gifts for us even when we cannot see them!



What have you been longing for, desiring, or daring to hope and believe that God would do? Are there hopes and dreams you've given up on? Take some time to write these down. Then consider sharing them with a trusted friend who will support and encourage you as you take a step of faith.



Specifically, pray for unreached people groups that live within the 10/40 Window (a global area located between the 10th and 40th latitudes comprising 85% of the world's unreached). This includes North Africa, the Middle East, and Asia. Pray for spiritual breakthrough in this area of the world, that the Holy Spirit would ignite a revival, and that the gospel would advance radically in our lifetime. Pray in confidence that "the zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this."

Notes:

A *chosen* PEOPLE

SAT. DAY 20

Exodus 19:5-6 / 1 Peter 2:9-10



Peter reminds us in this beloved passage of the incredible power that the transformation from darkness into light has on our identity and our purpose. The terms "a chosen people," "a royal priesthood," "a holy nation," and "a special possession" all come straight out of the Old Testament, when God chose Abraham and the nation of Israel to be set apart and uniquely His. Both Abraham and Israel certainly enjoyed certain benefits as God's chosen ones, but the purpose of their being set apart is bigger than themselves. Abraham was told that "all peoples on earth would be blessed through you" (Genesis 12:3), and Israel is called a "kingdom of priests" because of the role they were to play in making the Lord known among the nations.

Now, we – Christ's church – are God's chosen people, and in Christ, we have access to all the benefits of what that means. But more than that, more than ourselves, we are invited to participate in God's eternal purpose of making Himself known among the nations.

Declare this out loud. "I am set apart from this world by God as a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession. I am called by God out of darkness and into His light. I am a child of God, I have received mercy, and I belong to Him! And as God's chosen people and royal priesthood, I have a role to play in extending God's love to those around me – to declare His praise and make Him known!"

As we consider the need for more individuals and families to say "yes" to serve among unreached people, ask God to stir up bold faith in the body of Engedi. Ask the Holy Spirit to empower and equip each and every person uniquely designed by God to do the work He planned long ago for them. Pray that we would hear a multitude of God's people say "here I am, send me" and that Engedi would continue to prosper as a sending church so that God's name would be made known to the ends of the earth.



Notes:

Selah

SUN. DAY 21



Psalm 105:1-8

"Give thanks to the Lord and proclaim his greatness. Let the whole world know what he has done. Sing to him; yes, sing his praises. Tell everyone about his wonderful deeds. Exult in his holy name; rejoice, you who worship the Lord. Search for the Lord and for his strength; continually seek him. Remember the wonders he has performed, his miracles, and the rulings he has given, you children of his servant Abraham, you descendants of Jacob, his chosen ones. He is the Lord our God. His justice is seen throughout the land. He always stands by his covenant - the commitment he made to a thousand generations."



Stand in awe of God for a moment. Then give Him praise as the Light of the World: God the Father, the Source and Creator of the created light we use and experience daily. Jesus Christ, the Son, brings us from spiritual darkness to spiritual light. The Holy Spirit guides us into all truth and teaches us to walk in the light as He is in the light. God most glorious - the Light of the World!

The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it.

Notes:





Next Steps

Congratulations! You've completed 21 Days of Prayer and Fasting. We hope that you experienced new and refreshing ways to seek God and engage in His Word.

For next steps in continuing your spiritual journey at Engedi, head to engedichurch.com/next-steps



