



# SEEK | FIRST



21 DAYS OF PRAYER & FASTING

# Introduction



The calendar has flipped. It's a new year. For some of us that means excitement of a fresh start - a new day planner, a new semester of learning ahead, some new goals to work toward. For some others it's a time of reset - a return to the schedule that got disrupted by the hustle of the holidays, a recentering of priorities, a clear separation from the previous season, a clean slate. Still others are feeling the pull of both - big excitement and need for reset.

Whichever way you're processing the move into 2024, it is a time for us as a body to seek God first. Let Him set our priorities and our goals. Allow Him to lead what fills our calendars and schedule sabbath first. Ask Him to show us the path of deeper understanding He has for us.

Six days a week for the next three weeks, we are going to read a short portion from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount out of Matthew 5 through 7. It will be accompanied by another verse from scripture that reminds us to seek God first and draw near to Him. On Sundays we won't have an additional reading assigned, but we will sit under teaching of the same theme with a sermon series titled, "Seek First."

This might seem a bit lighter than what we've done in the past - reading multiple books together in a month or full chapters each day. The hope is that as we are seeking God's will through prayer and fasting we will be able to truly dwell on His word continually. Shorter readings this month mean that some of us may be able to read the same portion of scripture multiple times in a day. It also means that some who have felt discouraged by "getting behind" in daily readings might feel more ready to jump in to this plan. If you've been prompted to hide God's word in your heart through memorization, these shorter readings lend themselves to that.

I hope that you will grab an extra printed copy or forward the digital copy to a friend or family member to begin the year together in God's word. Ask someone in your Anchor Community or on a serve team with you to follow the reading guide alongside you. Join the group in Church Center for daily tidbits from your friends and leaders at Fathom. It's so encouraging to have someone to reach out to when you are excited about what God reveals in scripture or when you are unsure and wrestling with what it means. We are built for relationship and better together!

As we are seeking first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, be comforted that whatever else we are seeking - what we will eat or drink or wear - will be added.

-Christina Scott  
Next Steps Director

# Preparing

As we head into this season of corporate prayer and scripture reading, I hope you'll take some time to identify what you are actively pursuing in this season of prayer and fasting.

What next step are you seeking God's guidance in?

What big decision are you faced with?

Where do you need greater discernment and a fresh portion of God's wisdom?

Ask the LORD what He would reveal to you in this time devoted to reading His word and hearing His voice.

This is a time of corporate fasting as well as prayer and scripture reading. As you consider the many options for fasting for the next three weeks, please prepare yourself well for the physical and spiritual difficulties that fasting magnifies. There's a reason Jesus calls out the look of the hypocrites in Matthew 6 - fasting isn't easy! But fasting isn't a diet plan or a box to check on the Christian calendar. Fasting is an intentional refocusing of our energy away from the satisfactions of the flesh and the pangs that we can alleviate on our own and toward Jesus who is our living water and bread of life.

Scan the QR code below to watch some short teachings from Pastor Kyle on fasting. He answers some of the most frequently asked questions: What is fasting? Why fast? How should I fast?



Lastly, prepare well by finding someone to pray with you this month. Whether it's over a specific area of your life or a ministry dear to your heart - have a believer pray with you in agreement. Commit to praying with someone else over their felt needs as well. We all need prayer partners and there is such comfort knowing someone else is praying with you.

# Dedicating

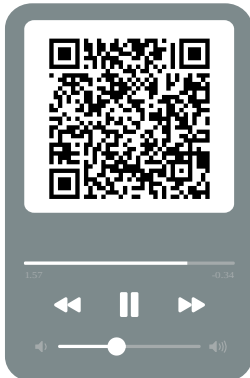
Join us throughout the month for open prayer times on campus at Fathom. There's no agenda - just a place to quiet your heart and pray. Leaders will be present each day during these times to pray with you, if you desire.

You can always text your prayer needs to the Prayer Team at 904-770-3037.

Mark your calendar for Thursday, January 4th @ 6:45p for the first Altar Night of 2024 to kick off our 21 days of prayer and fasting together.

## Open Prayer Times

Sundays	Mondays	Tuesdays	Wednesdays	Thursdays	Fridays	Saturdays
8-9a			7-8a			
			12-1p			
				7-8p		



### SPOTIFY MUSIC PLAYLIST

Scan the QR code to listen to our **21 Days of Prayer - SEEK FIRST** playlist on Spotify

There's a mixture of praise, worship, and songs of prayer.

# Other Resources:



Scan the QR code  
or text the word  
**FATHOM** to 49775  
to get your  
FREE gift subscription to

**rightnow** MEDIA



Download the RightNow Media app  
and check out our 21 Days of Prayer  
channel for resources for you and  
your entire family!



Jump on the Church Center App,  
go to the Groups tab, and connect  
with the scripture reading group.  
There's daily discussion, helpful  
visuals, and encouragement  
throughout the month.

Follow us on IG & Facebook  
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# WEEK ONE

## DAY ONE - Friday, 1/5

MATTHEW 5.1-12

SHORT SUMMARY: JESUS TEACHES THE BEATITUDES

ACCOMPANYING SCRIPTURE - PSALM 119.2 - *BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO KEEP HIS TESTIMONIES, WHO **SEEK HIM** WITH THEIR WHOLE HEART*

## DAY TWO - Saturday, 1/6

MATTHEW 5.13-16

SHORT SUMMARY: JESUS TEACHES ON SALT AND LIGHT

ACCOMPANYING SCRIPTURE - PSALM 40.16 - *BUT MAY ALL WHO **SEEK YOU** REJOICE AND BE GLAD IN YOU; MAY THOSE WHO LOVE YOUR SALVATION SAY CONTINUALLY, "GREAT IS THE LORD!"*

## DAY THREE - Sunday, 1/7 - *Sefah*

## DAY FOUR - Monday, 1/8

MATTHEW 5.17-20

SHORT SUMMARY: JESUS CAME TO FULFILL THE LAW

ACCOMPANYING SCRIPTURE - PSALM 119.10 - *WITH MY WHOLE HEART I **SEEK YOU**; LET ME NOT WANDER FROM YOUR COMMANDMENTS!*

## DAY FIVE - Tuesday, 1/9

MATTHEW 5.21-26

SHORT SUMMARY: JESUS TEACHES ON ANGER

ACCOMPANYING SCRIPTURE - 1 CHRONICLES 16.11 - ***SEEK THE LORD** AND HIS STRENGTH; **SEEK HIS PRESENCE** CONTINUALLY!*

## DAY SIX- Wednesday, 1/10

MATTHEW 5.27-30

SHORT SUMMARY: JESUS TEACHES ON LUST

ACCOMPANYING SCRIPTURE - PSALM 27.4 - *ONE THING HAVE I ASKED OF THE LORD, THAT WILL I **SEEK AFTER**: THAT I MAY DWELL IN THE HOUSE OF THE LORD ALL THE DAYS OF MY LIFE, TO GAZE UPON THE BEAUTY OF THE LORD AND TO INQUIRE IN HIS TEMPLE.*

## DAY SEVEN- Thursday, 1/11

MATTHEW 5.31-37

SHORT SUMMARY: JESUS TEACHES ON DIVORCE AND SWEARING OATHS

ACCOMPANYING SCRIPTURE - LAMENTATIONS 3.25 - *THE LORD IS GOOD TO THOSE WHO WAIT FOR HIM, TO THE SOUL WHO **SEEKS HIM**.*

# Prayers & Notes

**Week One Spiritual Focus: Seeking First**

God, I seek Your presence, Your strength,  
Your wisdom, and Your comfort.

I rely on You before anything or anyone else.

# WEEK TWO

## DAY EIGHT - Friday, 1/12

MATTHEW 5.38-48

SHORT SUMMARY: JESUS TEACHES ABOUT LOVING OUR ENEMIES

ACCOMPANYING SCRIPTURE - PSALM 14.2 - *THE LORD LOOKS DOWN FROM HEAVEN ON THE CHILDREN OF MAN, TO SEE IF THERE ARE ANY WHO UNDERSTAND, WHO **SEEK AFTER GOD.***

## DAY NINE - Saturday, 1/13

MATTHEW 6.1-4

SHORT SUMMARY: JESUS TEACHES ON HELPING THE NEEDY

ACCOMPANYING SCRIPTURE - JAMES 4.8 - ***DRAW NEAR TO GOD,** AND HE WILL DRAW NEAR TO YOU. CLEANSE YOUR HANDS, YOU SINNERS, AND PURIFY YOUR HEARTS, YOU DOUBLE-MINDED.*

## DAY TEN - Sunday, 1/14 - *Sejah*

## DAY ELEVEN - Monday, 1/15

MATTHEW 6.5-15

SHORT SUMMARY: JESUS TEACHES HOW TO PRAY

ACCOMPANYING SCRIPTURE - PSALM 34.4 - ***I SOUGHT THE LORD,** AND HE ANSWERED ME AND DELIVERED ME FROM ALL MY FEARS.*

## DAY TWELVE - Tuesday, 1/16

MATTHEW 6.16-18

SHORT SUMMARY: JESUS TEACHES ON FASTING

ACCOMPANYING SCRIPTURE - PSALM 34.10 - *THE YOUNG LIONS SUFFER WANT AND HUNGER; BUT THOSE WHO **SEEK THE LORD** LACK NO GOOD THING.*

## DAY THIRTEEN - Wednesday, 1/17

MATTHEW 6.19-24

SHORT SUMMARY: JESUS TEACHES ABOUT HEAVENLY TREASURE VERSUS EARTHLY TREASURE

ACCOMPANYING SCRIPTURE - PSALM 37.4 - ***DELIGHT YOURSELF IN THE LORD,** AND HE WILL GIVE YOU THE DESIRES OF YOUR HEART.*

## DAY FOURTEEN - Thursday, 1/18

MATTHEW 6.25-34

SHORT SUMMARY: JESUS TEACHES ON ANXIETY

ACCOMPANYING SCRIPTURE - PSALM 27.8 - *YOU HAVE SAID, "**SEEK MY FACE.**" MY HEART SAYS TO YOU, "**YOUR FACE, LORD, DO I SEEK.**"*



# Prayers & Notes

## **Week Two Spiritual Focus: Whole Heart**

*Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit. Psalm 51.10-12*

# WEEK THREE

## DAY FIFTEEN - Friday, 1/19

MATTHEW 7.1-6

SHORT SUMMARY: JESUS TEACHES ABOUT JUDGING OTHERS

ACCOMPANYING SCRIPTURE - PSALM 105.4 - **SEEK THE LORD** AND HIS STRENGTH; SEEK HIS PRESENCE CONTINUALLY!

## DAY SIXTEEN - Saturday, 1/20

MATTHEW 7.7-11

SHORT SUMMARY: JESUS TEACHES US TO ASK GOD FOR WHAT WE NEED

ACCOMPANYING SCRIPTURE - DEUTERONOMY 4.29 - BUT FROM THERE YOU WILL **SEEK THE LORD** YOUR GOD AND YOU WILL FIND HIM, IF YOU **SEARCH AFTER HIM** WITH ALL YOUR HEART AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL.

## DAY SEVENTEEN- Sunday, 1/21 - *Sefah*

## DAY EIGHTEEN - Monday, 1/22

MATTHEW 7.12-14

SHORT SUMMARY: JESUS TEACHES ON THE NARROW GATE

ACCOMPANYING SCRIPTURE - PSALM 9.10 - AND THOSE WHO KNOW YOUR NAME PUT THEIR TRUST IN YOU, FOR YOU, O LORD, HAVE NOT FORSAKEN THOSE WHO **SEEK YOU**.

## DAY NINETEEN - Tuesday, 1/23

MATTHEW 7.15-20

SHORT SUMMARY: JESUS TEACHES ON TREES AND THEIR FRUIT

ACCOMPANYING SCRIPTURE - PSALM 73.28 - BUT FOR ME IT IS GOOD TO BE **NEAR GOD**; I HAVE MADE THE LORD GOD MY REFUGE, THAT I MAY TELL OF ALL YOUR WORKS.

## DAY TWENTY - Wednesday, 1/24

MATTHEW 7.21-23

SHORT SUMMARY: JESUS TEACHES ON WHO WILL NOT ENTER THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

ACCOMPANYING SCRIPTURE - HEBREWS 11.6 - AND WITHOUT FAITH IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO PLEASE HIM, FOR WHOEVER WOULD **DRAW NEAR TO GOD** MUST BELIEVE THAT HE EXISTS AND THAT HE REWARDS THOSE WHO SEEK HIM.

## DAY TWENTY-ONE - Thursday, 1/25

MATTHEW 7.24-29

SHORT SUMMARY: JESUS TEACHES US TO BUILD OUR HOUSE UPON THE ROCK

ACCOMPANYING SCRIPTURE - HEBREWS 7.25 - CONSEQUENTLY, HE IS ABLE TO SAVE TO THE UTMOST THOSE WHO **DRAW NEAR TO GOD** THROUGH HIM, SINCE HE ALWAYS LIVES TO MAKE INTERCESSION FOR THEM.

# Prayers & Notes

## **Week Three Spiritual Focus: The Word**

*And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1.14*

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