

(all Scriptures, unless otherwise noted, are from the NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION)

Spending daily time with God and His Word is an essential part of your missionary experience. In order to assist you, we are providing a 35-day Quiet Time Guide. The first five days center on the Ancient Paths, a topic you will begin learning about during your training. Scripture says that God has established His Ancient Paths, His “good ways,” deep within you. These devotions will help you begin to discover these Ancient Paths for your life.

Barbara Ann Sheely, one of our Awe Star leaders, wrote the next thirty days of the Quiet Time Guide just for you. God placed it on her heart to write devotions specifically designed to help you face the challenges of the mission field. Each day, you will look at Scripture passages that embrace a particular topic, a meditation that will help you apply God’s Word to your life, and a prayer that helps you focus on His Will. Use the devotions as a starting point and see where God takes you! May God richly bless you as you spend the next thirty-five days being transformed by God and His holy Word.

ANCIENT PATH: IMAGE

Read: Genesis 1:26-27; Colossians 1:9-20

“Created in the image of God” takes us to the heart of God’s Ancient Paths. Man has Ancient Paths unique to him.

When a painted portrait clearly shows an image, it lets others see and know its subject. Centuries after his death, I can examine a portrait of George Washington and learn about his eyes, his skin, even the struggles he had with his teeth! I can begin to know our first president by studying an image that accurately represents him.

As a created being, man is not worthy of worship. Earthly hands can make nothing that accurately portrays a living God, so He forbids us to make idols or “images.” In fact, He has already given us His image—deep within ourselves.

As you go to the nations, remember: everyone you meet has the unmistakable stamp of God’s creation instilled within his or her being. Genesis calls that the image of God. Jeremiah calls it—Ancient Paths.

Pray: Ask God to allow you to see yourself and others as His most precious creation. As Jesus (His perfect image) lives through you, others will see Him more and more.

ANCIENT PATH: LIFE

Read: Genesis 2:7; John 1:3-5, 10:10

Life is the most ancient of the Ancient Paths that God has instilled within His creation. He gave life to man in a distinctive way. By His own breath, we became living souls.

Contrary to what some scientists might say today, we are more than just the sum of our parts. We have the very life of the Father embedded deep within us. Why does the newborn baby gasp and gulp to take that first breath? Why do our bodies automatically respond to combat the invasion of a virus or other germ? God has designed us for life.

Like all Ancient Paths, life is a path for eternity. Back in the Garden, man made a deliberate choice to break away from life. Jesus not only brings us back to that Ancient Path—He IS Life!

As you return to this Ancient Path, He daily breathes His life into yours, flooding it with His abundance and blessing. Where do you sense that life in and around you today?

Pray: Ask God to breathe His life into yours in fresh ways. Thank Him for the gift of life!

ANCIENT PATH: MALE AND FEMALE

Read: Genesis 1:27, 2:18-23; Galatians 3:27-29

Anyone who has seen small children at play knows that “boy” or “girl” is an Ancient Path. Although our culture tells us just the opposite, we can rejoice in this unmistakable pattern. No one teaches little boys to turn their hands into weapons. No one teaches little girls to cradle their baby dolls so tenderly.

Yes, we have individual personalities and characteristics, but all of these lie within the context of who we are as male and female. These are God’s Ancient Paths!

As you walk in adult tasks and adult responsibilities this summer, you walk either as a man or as a woman. Since you have learned that your worth and value comes as God’s image-bearer, you know that men and women have equal value. Within the Kingdom, roles or functions are different. Worth is identical!

You will find your greatest satisfaction when you walk out His purposes—as a man or woman after His own heart.

Pray: In a world that seeks to blur gender identity, ask God to show you what it means to follow Him. How can you best portray His “man” or “woman” design?

ANCIENT PATH: BLESSING

Read: Genesis 1:27-28; Psalm 21:1-7; Ephesians 1:2-4

Upon creation, the first act that God pronounced upon man was one of blessing. This Ancient Path is mentioned over 600 times in the Old Testament alone!

To the Hebrews, “blessing” meant conferring favored status and bountiful resources. Fathers blessed their wives and children. Kings and rulers blessed their subjects. Priests blessed the people in their care.

God’s Ancient Paths are also His highest desires for His creation. Blessing stands against its opposite: the curse. Over and over again, man chooses to leave this Ancient Path, receiving a curse rather than God’s promised goodness and grace.

As Father, God longs to bless you with His loving care. As King, He is ready to pour out blessings of abundance from His heavenly throne. As High Priest, He blesses you through the forgiveness of sin, making a way for you to enter the holy of Holies.

Pray: As you kneel for God’s blessing, focus on the ways He may use you to bless others. Can you speak words of encouragement? Can you forgive a wrong suffered? Ask God to use you as His instrument of blessing in other’s lives—today.

ANCIENT PATH: DOMINION

Read: Genesis 1:26; Daniel 7:13-14; Ephesians 1:20-22

Let's go back to the Garden. Here, God laid out a specific area for which He wanted Adam and Eve to take responsibility. The animals were their sphere of rule, their dominion. His first two children represented God Himself as they lovingly cared for His creation.

Dominion, then, is one more Ancient Path. When we live and move in the specific dominion He gives us, we are becoming like God, who has dominions of His own. In fact, Scripture says that He will not share His glory with another (Is. 42:8). Ultimately, every eye will see, and every tongue will confess, that He has dominion over all.

What is your dominion? Has God shown you an area where He wants you to rule, to take possession? Generally, your dominion will line up with the gifts and abilities He has given you. Sometimes, however, He will move you into a new and unfamiliar dominion—wherever He can best use you to glorify Himself.

Pray: Do you know your dominion? Ask God to prepare you for it—and to reveal it to you through the significant tasks you carry out this summer.

BEGINNING

Read: Genesis 12:1-9

Just like Abram, you followed the call of the Lord to go out from your home. What an exciting thought! Just think: before the creation of the world, your Father called you to follow Him into the nations so that He can be glorified. **“For I know the plans I have for you . . . plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future.” (Jeremiah 29:11)**

This journey on which you are about to embark is one that will not end when you return home. Instead, it will last forever. The Lord has hand-picked you “for such a time as this.” He longs to spend time with you as you see and do amazing things. He has so much in store!

Are you ready? If not, get ready, for the time is here!

Write in your journal your thoughts about following the Lord into the nations.

Pray: Pray for a heart that is wide open for hearing the voice of God. Pray that God would now start preparing you to go home, so you can continue the great task of bringing Glory to His name.

IT'S NOT ABOUT YOU

Read: Romans 12:1-8

“For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you.” (v. 3)

The Lord has placed you on this team, going into this nation. He has equipped in certain ways, with certain gifts. You are here to serve Him. What a significant task!

Too often, we get caught up in our own gifts, forgetting that others have gifts as well. Someone else may be waiting for a chance to glorify God. Maybe, just maybe, He has you there to pull a gift out of a teammate. How can you encourage him or her to bring honor to God?

Remember, your ministry is not just about your gifts, but about the power that you have in serving together as a body of believers.

Pray: Thank the Lord for the gifts that He has bestowed on you. Pray that you can be an encourager to your teammates and help pull out of them the gifts the Lord has given.

FIRE

Read: Exodus 3

“Do not come any closer,” God said. “Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground.” (v.5)

After Moses noticed the flames, the Lord’s voice came from the burning bush. God may be burning as a fire right beside you. Do you see the flame? Or do you simply avoid the heat, never noticing its Source?

God’s words took Moses back to his people. He had spent years in the wilderness. Now, the Lord was moving him into something new. His journey began with holy fire.

Everywhere we go is holy ground, for the Lord is there. How do you walk? Are you watching and listening for his voice?

You may feel inadequate, like Moses, for the tasks set before you today. As God calls you to obedience, He places His fire within you. He promised Moses his presence. He shares that same promise with you.

You may need to remove your sandals. The place where you begin your journey is holy ground.

Pray: Ask God to speak with the fire of holiness, to place His fire within you as He sends you to the nations.

HANDS

Read: Psalm 24; 1 Thessalonians 4:11

Look at your hands, so intricately made. Every line, every vein was put into exactly the right place.

You can do many things with those hands: Bind up the sick. Build great temples. Bring people to know the Lord. Praise His name. Those hands are the very hands of God. He works out His good purposes through us.

What do your hands do? Do they lift up the name of God and build His Kingdom; or do they have doubt, worry, and disbelief written all over them?

Just like the Audio Adrenaline song, “I’m gonna be your hands/I’m gonna be your feet/I will go where you send me,” you are His hands and feet. You move where He sends you. It’s so exciting to be a messenger for the living God!

Look at your hands again. How would you describe them now? Remember you can do anything through God who gives you strength. You can!

“Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might...” (Ecclesiastes 9:10a)

Pray: Pray that you will use your hands to the glory of God—to do great things for the Kingdom.

PURE

Read: Psalm 24:4; Proverbs 20:9; 1 John 3:3; 1 Timothy 4:12; Colossians 3:1-10

How can you have a pure heart before the Lord?

What you put in your mind has a huge effect on keeping your heart pure. Watching movies that are not edifying to the Body of Christ will affect your work with the Lord—somehow, some day.

The enemy loves to get a foothold in your life wherever he can. If you watch images or have conversations that aren’t clean, if you gossip about others, you are letting the enemy get a foothold into your life and affecting the temperature of your heart with the Lord.

You may feel as if those things won’t bother you. But someday, they will surface. What better time for them to surface than as you serve the Lord in the nations! Get everything that hinders your heart out in the open. Pray these hindrances out and away before the enemy can take hold of them.

Pray: Ask the Lord to pull out anything hidden in your heart. Ask that nothing be allowed to stand in the way of your becoming clean and pure before Him. Ask Him to guard your heart.

PRAYER

Read: 1 Thessalonians 5:17; Matthew 5:44, 6:5-13, 26:36-46

Prayer. Such a simple word, but what does it really mean?

What happens when a person prays? The Bible says that the prayer of a righteous man is effective. How effective can one man be? VERY!

Prayer is the foundation for anything you will do. It connects your heart to the Heavenly Father.

“Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak.” (Matthew 26:41)

This is from the very lips of Christ. He knows our bodies are weak. That’s why He wants us to be in constant nearness to Him.

So, how much do you talk to the Father? Once a day? If that’s the case, it’s not enough! Your Father longs to speak with you. You should be talking with Him many hours of the day. You wouldn’t go without talking to your friends or family. God also deserves your time. He considers it precious.

Pray: Pray that your prayer life would increase drastically. Knowing that you can’t live without it, pray that your Father would intensify your longing to talk and spend time with Him.

READY

Read: Matthew 21

Think about this story from the disciples’ point of view. What was Jesus asking them to do? Go somewhere ahead of Him? Ask a favor of strangers? How awkward they must have felt! They probably wished Jesus had gone to get his own donkey. Instead, He chose to send them.

Jesus will often call you out of your comfort zone. He will ask you to do or say things that sound strange, or don’t seem to make sense. Will you obey Him? Are you ready?

Jesus knows just what He needs and when He needs it. He knows just what you need, too. He will make you ready for your task. If you need words, He promises to give them. If you need strength, He has that for you, too.

As you moved toward your trip, your partners have prayed that you would be ready for the work before you. Even in the places where you do not feel ready, know that He is at work. He is always ready!

Pray: Thank God today for the ways He has prepared you. Thank Him that because of Him, you will be ready whenever He calls.

PORTION

Read: Psalm 73

Think about what you eat during the day. You come hungry. You eat. You leave full. Your portion is adequate to fill your hunger.

“My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.” (v. 26)

He is our portion. He fills us up every day, if we let Him. Even though we feel taken down, overwhelmed, or destroyed (as you may feel today), the Lord’s love and powerful presence overtakes everything else. Even when we seem to slip and fall, we are not overtaken—even by the things the world places in our path every day.

Beyond Him, do you desire nothing else? Come hungry before the Lord. He is just enough to fill you, to be your portion. The things of this world may fill that empty space—but only temporarily. The hunger will return, because it is a hunger God has built within you. You hunger for Him. Let Him be the strength of your heart. Let Him be your portion forever.

Pray: Ask Him to satisfy the hunger deep inside you. Cry out to Him, asking that He always be your portion.

INTIMATE

Read: John 17

What stands out to you the most about the way that Jesus prayed?

Jesus is intimate. He doesn’t just want to know you, He wants to KNOW you. He wants it all! He wants to know your innermost thoughts and secrets. Thinking of that can be fiercely scary—but it’s so sweet and good knowing that He is holding you up.

How intimate are you with the Lord?

Jesus was intimate in the way that He prayed for Himself. He was intimate in the way that He prayed for His disciples, and even in the way He prayed for you. He knew, even that day when He was on His face before the Father, that you would be following Him into the nations to spread His name among the people.

Good news! The intimacy and oneness that Jesus has with His Father is the same intimacy and oneness that He wants with you.

Pray: Pray for a desire to know the Lord in a deeper way that will forever change the way you think about Him. Ask the Lord to reveal the depths of His heart to you more clearly than He ever has.

HOLY BOLDNESS

Read: Philippians 1

ho·ly Belonging to, derived from, or associated with a divine power; sacred. Regarded with or worthy of worship or veneration; revered; Specified or set apart for a purpose.

Boldness The quality of standing out strongly and distinctly; the trait of being willing to undertake things that involve risk or danger.

When is the last time that you said, “Okay, God! I will do anything, go anywhere, talk to anyone that you tell you to, because it’s all for your glory.” Following God means that you are willing to take risks for the Kingdom, to be placed in situations that are not easy. Following God means being willing to do that every day.

Look at Paul in Philippians 1. Here is a man who understood the cost. His heart-attitude said, “I will follow God anywhere, anytime, even to death, if it means bringing glory to His name.”

How in tune is your heart with Paul’s? With the Lord’s?

Pray. Today as you go, cry out for a holy heart and an absence of fear—an indwelling Presence that leaves you with a holy boldness.

POWER

Read: Isaiah 64

Who else could rend the heavens and come down and make the mountains tremble? Only a powerful God can do that.

Do you believe He is powerful?

Have you ever prayed to see the power of the Lord? There are many things, both on this trip and when you return home, that only the power of the Lord can do. Only He can accomplish them.

“For when you did awesome things that we did not expect, you came down, and the mountains trembled before you.” (v.3)

Oh, to see that! There are things right now, things you are about to do and see, that you will need the power of God to accomplish. Remember that you are the body of Christ. Your team is so much stronger together than one man by himself.

Pray: Pray for a stronger belief in the power of God. Pray for your team members to band together and pray unceasingly, on their faces before the Lord. Pray for Him to break any holds that may be present. Thank Him for His power.

HUMILITY

Read: Philippians 2:1-11

Think about the word *humble*. What does it mean?

Look at verse 3. What does it say about humility? “. . . in humility consider others better than yourselves.” Serving others in humility and love is one of the greatest things you can ever do.

Now, look at verse 5: “Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus.”

What has your attitude been like over the past few days? What about right now? Is it Christ-centered, or self-centered?

Have you been serving others with a glad heart, or just serving because you don’t have a choice?

Jesus’ focus was not on how others could serve Him. It was just the opposite.

In Matthew 20:28, He says “Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.”

Today, do a heart- and attitude-check. Both of these affect how you serve others—in humility, or with prideful expectations.

Pray: Ask the Lord to deepen your humility. Surrender your attitude to Him and ask Him to transform it to be more like His.

GLORY

Read: Exodus 33:12-23

Oh, to have been Moses! Speaking face to face with the Lord—what an incredible experience!

Moses was so bold when he asked the Lord to show him His glory. God had already promised His presence wherever the Israelites went. He responded faithfully to Moses’ next request, hiding him in the cleft of the rock and allowing him to see His back. This all happened because Moses asked with a pure heart and right motives.

When’s the last time you found yourself on your face begging for God’s glory? Maybe you missed His glory as He revealed it to you because you were busy looking for other things. Or maybe you were already so focused on those other things that you never even asked.

Today, before you begin your ministry, beg God for His glory. Moses was so bold, so intimate in his relationship with God, that he never thought twice about the enormity of his request. He and God were the greatest of friends.

Pray: Ask the Lord to reveal His glory to you in ways that you have never seen. Pray that anything preventing you from seeing it will be revealed and destroyed.

MERCY

Read: Psalm 87

Mercy. What picture comes into your mind when you hear that word? Do you recall your grandparents exclaiming, “Mercy!”? Do you think of a prisoner on his knees, begging for mercy from the judge and jury?

Mercy. Like the old expression, it applies in almost any situation. Like the prisoner, we need it because we’re guilty.

The mercy God gives comes fresh. Lamentations 3:24 says His compassions, His mercies, are “new every morning.” God’s mercy comes not as a begrudging response to our pleading, but as an intimate outpouring of His love.

Today, focus on God’s mercy. Watch how He applies it to your life, your team, the people you meet today. How does His mercy cover your ministry and change the way you respond?

If your life does not reflect His mercy, He stands ready. Ask Him to share His mercy—that you may share it with others. He’ll listen—in mercy. He’ll meet you—in mercy. He’ll bless you—with mercy. Today.

Pray: Ask Him to show you His mercy in fresh ways today, and to help you take that mercy into the lives of everyone you meet.

BOX

Read: Galatians 5:16-21; James 5:13-20

Secret boxes lie within our hearts—boxes that may hold sexual immorality, hatred, lust, envy, jealousy, etc. Holding onto them keeps us from going deeper with the Father—from true intimacy with Him.

What do you “hold back” from the Lord and others?

James says, “Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.” (James 5:16)

Did you catch that? Confess to one another and you will be healed! I held onto one box for a long time. I wore an “I’m fine” face; but all the while, the box and its contents were eating me up inside.

Even though I prayed for the Father to take the box, I could not go deeper with Him until I let go. What finally freed me? The act of confessing to someone else that I was just as messed up and imperfect as others.

Pray: Pray for freedom from whatever box you are holding, and courage to share it with someone else. If you’re not holding a box, thank God, and pray to stay strong.

WONDERFULLY MADE

Read: Psalm 139

“I praise you for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.” (v. 14).

We are fearfully and wonderfully made. Thinking of that should bring something new to your heart. Think of how a butterfly is created. It begins as a small something of ugliness. It weaves a cocoon and stays in it for a while. Finally, it breaks free, and we see that it is wonderfully made.

Today may be a day that seems like just another day—but it is NOT! You may feel as though you are that small something of ugliness—but you are NOT! You are fearfully and wonderfully made by the One whose works are wonderful.

Today, ask God to test you, to know your anxious thoughts. Ask Him to remind you of His divine design as you face each part of your day. He has created you for it. Now walk in it with boldness. You are wonderfully made!

Pray: Thank God for knitting you together in your mother’s womb. Thank Him for His perfect plans. What is He telling you as you wait before Him now?

QUIET

Read: Psalm 132

How often are you quiet before the Lord? Not just spending time in the Word, but truly waiting before Him?

Where do you go to spend time with Him?

“But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen.” (Matthew 6:6a)

You need to have a place where you can have spend quality time alone with your Father. Your spirit craves quiet and solitude with the Creator of the Universe.

So many times, we have good intentions of spending quality time alone with Him, but allow other things to get in the way. It saddens our Father’s heart when He does not have time alone with you every day. This is not just fifteen minutes, or thirty minutes—this is a genuine time of resting in the Lord, of listening to Him teach you.

As you go through your day today, ask the Lord to place upon you a spirit of reverence. God speaks the most clearly in the times of reverence and silence before Him.

Pray: Spend time being quiet before the Lord. Listen to Him, and make sure that you don’t miss His voice.

CLAY

Read: Jeremiah 18:1-6

How does clay take shape? It does not come to life until a hand moves it. It begins as a lump—often an ugly one. So the potter starts to work it. He gently pushes and shapes it until it becomes something magnificent. Its hidden beauty and purpose do not appear right away. Clay must be pounded, shaped, and molded before its true value is revealed.

You were placed here for a purpose, one so big that God may be the only One who knows it right now. Maybe you know your purpose. Maybe you are even walking in it today. But maybe, instead, you are praying and waiting on God's timing. Maybe you have no clue about what God made you to do. Ask God to shape you and mold you according to His plan.

The good news: you don't have to go through life trying to find your purpose. You are clay. Are you will to remain in the hands of the potter?

Pray: Ask God to mold you like clay, making you more like Him, shaping you into a vessel He can use as He pleases.

LOVE

Read: 1 John 4:7-21

"It's love so amazing and love so divine; it demands, deserves, should get back our soul and life and our all."
(Louie Giglio)

Love. It's such a powerful word, yet we use it so loosely. Think of the Ultimate Love. Love that came from the greatness of Heaven to this earth. Love that took away the grips of death and put into place freedom in an everlasting love. Love so amazing. Love so divine.

How would you describe your own love? Is it everlasting? Is it just another word?

"And this is love: that we walk in obedience to his commands. As you have heard from the beginning, his command is that you walk in love." (2 John 6)

How strong is your love towards your team? Is it lacking? Pray that God would intensify your love for them into one that persists no matter what.

Pray: Pray that God would help you to love just as He loves us. Pray for an intense love to abound in your team—for one another and for the people where you serve. Pray that this love will endure.

BELIEVE

Read: Habakkuk 1:1-5

What happens in you when the Lord decides to test you? Are you caught off guard, knocked to your knees? Do you want to go sit in a hole and quit life?

Or do you embrace it? Do you fall to your knees in thanksgiving? Do you pray to be found a faithful servant?

Habakkuk is very distraught. He must surely be on his knees as he begs the Lord for an answer. Still, it is what God says after his crisis that puts it all together.

“Look at the nations and watch—and be utterly amazed. For I am going to do something in your days that you would not believe, even if you were told.” (v. 5)

That deserves triple exclamation points: be utterly amazed!!! Something was about to happen that Habakkuk would not believe, even if the king himself told him about it

How can you apply that the next time you are in the moment of disbelief?

Pray: Pray for an amazement of belief today. Pray that you would be fluid and vulnerable before Him. Remember, you believe God not by what you see, but by the faith that He has placed inside you.

BREATHLESS SILENCE

Read: Ecclesiastes 3:11

Picture this: you walk out of the front door of your house and into the most beautiful sunset you have ever seen. For a moment, you are drawn to a breathless silence.

“Every song you love, every memory you cherish, every moment that has moved you to holy tears has been given to you from the one who has been pursuing you from your first breath in order to win your heart.”—*Stasi Eldridge*

What about the Lord takes your breath away? Take time to watch for it, to sit and think, and then write your answer in your journal. Remember—He chose you to be exactly where you are at this very moment.

“He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity on the hearts of men; yet they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end.” (v.11)

Pray: Ask the Lord to bring you to a place of silence and awe before Him. Ask Him to show you the beauty in the people you will encounter today. Thank Him for taking your breath away every time He shows you something new.

FAITHFULNESS

Read: Matthew 25:14-30

Faithfulness. That word has so many meanings, but one that stands: able to be counted on, remaining steadfast until the end.

Do you consider yourself faithful? Do people ask you to do things with them, but find later that you fail to appear? Think about the Father. He never fails. He is constantly faithful. He says, “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you (Heb. 13:5).

As we spend more time with Him, we will become more like Him. Faithfulness is a quality He wants to share with us. He even says that if we are faithful in “a few things,” He will entrust us with “many things” (Matt. 25:23).

Do you find yourself making excuses for your lack of faithfulness? Do you point to others’ struggles rather than admit the truth?

How is God asking you to become more faithful? Ask Him to give you His faithfulness—one that endures forever.

Count on His faithfulness today as you seek Him. Know that He is always with you.

Pray: Ask that God would increase your faithfulness to Him and others around you. Thank God that He never fails you.

HOLY FEAR

Read: Isaiah 8:11-22

What do you think it means to have a holy fear before the Lord?

Like Isaiah, you will encounter people who try to lead you astray. The enemy will try to plant doubts that steal the joy you have gained this summer. You must be ready. You must stand firm.

Read verse 11. The Lord told Isaiah not to follow the way of those people. He told him not to believe everything they said, not to fear what they feared. “The Lord Almighty is the one you are to regard as holy, he is the one you are to fear, he is the one you are to dread.” (v.13)

God doesn’t want you to be afraid of Him. He wants you to fear Him, to stand in awe at His abilities. He is incredible. You desperately need His protective hand.

Don’t be moved by the things of the world. The things of the Lord are far more awe-inspiring.

Pray: Pray for an increased yearning for the fear of God. Pray that you will be faithful to stay under the Lord’s protection and not allow yourself to be swayed by the things of this world.

FAST

Read: Isaiah 58

What do you know about fasting before the Lord?

True fasting is not just giving up something. Instead, it is delighting more in the Lord than in that thing. It is praying fervently in place of that thing. It is believing that God will work miracles, and knowing that even if things don't happen exactly the way we want, God will do what is best.

Look at verses 6-9. Do you see the kind of fasting God desires? Praying for the chains of injustice to be broken. Setting the oppressed free. Giving to the poor—blessing another person who is in want while praying and seeking the Lord.

When you fast and seek the Lord, your hunger for food disappears. Your longing for the thing you are doing without ceases. Jesus fasted for forty days and forty nights. Did he ever get hungry? Of course—but God provided for His needs. During that time, His intimacy with His Father greatly increased.

When you fast, you are saying that the Lord is more important than T.V. shows, than food, than music, etc.

Pray: Ask the Lord to increase your desire to know Him through fasting.

JOY

Read Habakkuk 3:17-19

Consider this story.

There was a woman who lived in a small house with no water and hardly any electricity. She had no family, and an earthquake had destroyed nearly everything she had. Still, every day, women would come to listen to her as she shared stories and poetry.

People often asked her how she could believe in God. “Do you see the birds in the air? And the sun in the sky? I believe in God like you and I can see those birds, or that sun. Such power and beauty come from them. How can you not believe?”

What makes this woman so extraordinary? Everything in her house is only two feet off the ground. She has lost her legs and nearly all of her eyesight to diabetes.

What determines a person's joy? According to this woman's circumstances, she should have lost her joy long ago. Instead, she knows that in all things, God works for the good of those who love Him.

Is your joy determined by your situation, or by Whose you are?

Pray: Praise God that you belong to Him and that your joy may abound regardless of circumstances. Rejoice!

CHASE

Read: Genesis 18:16-33; 19:15-29

Do you hear Abraham's heart when He speaks with the Lord (chapter 18)? He pleads for God to spare the righteous, asking boldly that they not be swept away with the wicked.

Abraham chased after the Lord, and God favored that relationship.

Lot also chased the Lord. The angels told his entire family not to look back or they would surely die. What happened to Lot's wife? She looked back, became a pillar of salt, and died.

God wants us to keep looking forward, to chase after Him. If we are keeping our minds, our hearts, our all on Jesus, nothing else matters.

A.W. Tozer spoke about what it means to be crucified in Christ, to look toward the cross. An old man told him, "The man who is crucified is facing only one direction." Tozer elaborates on that, saying, "I like that—facing only one direction. If he hears anything behind him, he can't turn around to see what's going on. He has stopped looking back."

It's a chase! Run after Him—and don't look back!

Pray: Thank the Lord that He is always with you. Pray that you will always focus on Him.

PRICE

Read: Philippians 1:12-26

Look at these words by Billy Foote and Todd Lambert:

Whatever the price might be
To follow the Christ my King
In sorrow and loss,
I know that the cost would be
The greatest bargain.
I'll carry my cross,
Whatever the cost might be.

I will have to suffer pain
For the glory of His name,
I'm living for,
The prize that waits for me.
I will have to lose my life
For the greater cause of Christ
I'm dying for
The prize that waits for me.
I'll carry my cross,
Whatever the cost might be.

What does it mean to follow after the Lord? In this world, everything has a price. It costs.

Following after the Lord has a price—the greatest price you will ever pay. You lose the world. You gain its Creator.

Paul speaks in Philippians 1:20-22 about being torn between leaving this world and being with Christ, and staying here to encourage believers. He paid the cost. He lived to follow Christ.

Pray: Thank God that you don't have to live by the standards of this world. Pray that you will stand firm in the things of the Lord.

ISAIAH

Read: Isaiah 6

Picture this: You stand beside Isaiah. You see the Lord seated on the throne, high and exalted, surrounded by winged creatures.

Suddenly, you hear voices, crying, “Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory.” The temple fills with smoke, and the doorposts and thresholds shake.

Would you react as Isaiah did? “Woe to me! I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the Lord Almighty” (v. 5). Look down further, in verse 7, “With it (the coal) he touched my mouth and said, “See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for.”

Isaiah was in the presence of holiness. HOLINESS!!! This holy presence caused the voices to repeat three times; see God in His holiness; and follow him in obedience by going to the nations. After your “presence of holiness,” will you go exactly where He tells you?

Pray: Pray for an obedient heart like Isaiah’s. Pray that your obedience to the Lord will only increase after you return home.

DISCOMFORT

Read: Hebrews 13:5-6

When did you last feel uncomfortable? What did you do about it?

Most people don’t embrace discomfort—they flee it.

What if you remained in the place of discomfort? What if you stayed, only to allow God to make you stronger? What a thought: the Creator of the universe pulling discomfort and uneasiness out of you, and breathing His own life into that very spot.

“So we say with confidence, “The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can Man do to me?”” (Heb. 13:6)

Confidence! Since you are a child of the King, you walk with a different walk. You have a new song. You have the living, breathing Word of God alive in you at this very moment. You have power—such power that even the demons shudder. Do you remember these truths?

You are about to go back to school or work. You will face situations and meet people that make you feel uncomfortable. Remember: you are a child of the King. You walk in the authority of Christ. Remember whose you are.

Pray: In times of discomfort, ask God to flow through you so you will stand firm.

A JOURNEY THAT CONTINUES

Read: 2 Chronicles 9

This trip is coming to an end, but the journey the Lord has for you will continue. At home, your prayer partners have been reading the great things He has done through your team. Now, they want to see the great changes in your life.

The Queen of Sheba heard about Solomon's great wisdom and fame. She wanted to see these things for herself, so she went to him. Everything she saw confirmed that the reports were true: Solomon was a man who followed God with all His heart. The queen had to see it to believe it, but it's really the other way around. Believing is seeing.

Remember all that the Lord has shown and taught you this summer. Where will those things be after you have settled in at home and life starts full speed ahead? In a month or two? Next summer?

Stay strong. Hold your teammates accountable, and have them do the same for you.

Pray: Thank the Lord for allowing you to partake in His ministry. Ask Him to keep you from complacency, guiding you in daily surrender so that He can keep you strong.