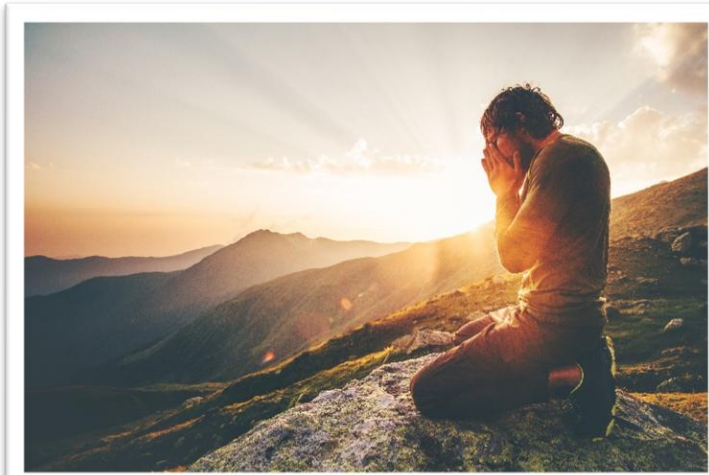


40 Days of Prayer Toolkit



Church Planning Guide

"I sought the Lord, and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears." Psalm 34:4



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Introduction

An essential element to experiencing spiritual renewal within a church body is a vibrant and meaningful life of prayer that shapes its culture. This life of prayer emanates from each soul that is abiding in Christ and enjoying His presence within their daily routines. It also permeates every aspect of church life, as the people of God gather intentionally and expectantly to express adoration for the goodness and greatness of God. A praying church is a humble, gracious, and thankful church, especially when their prayers are guided by meditation on the Word of God. When the people of God seek the face of God, listen to the voice of God, and respond to the Spirit of God, He brings conviction and courage to live with wholehearted devotion to Him and one another. This culture of prayer is life-giving and unifies the church in their God-given mission and empowers their gospel proclamation. **Does this describe you and your church?**

Spiritual renewal is a continual and gracious work of God. *"His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence"* (1 Peter 2:3 ESV). **It is also a pursuit!** The practice of spiritual disciplines causes one to experience the power and presence of God for life transformation.

⁵ For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, ⁶ and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, ⁷ and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. ⁸ For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins (2 Peter 1:5-9).

Do you long to see your church **pursuing Christ** with joy, **pursuing community** within the body of Christ with loyal love, and **pursuing Christ's commission** to make disciples with steadfast devotion? **Let's make every effort** to pursue a culture of spiritual renewal. May these qualities increase and bear fruit in your 40-day journey.

The purpose of this Toolkit and Planning Guide is to equip the local church with resources and best practices to organize and implement a 40-day prayer strategy to cultivate a culture of prayer. The 40 Day Prayer Guide is simply a discipleship tool to model spiritually renewing disciplines, but it must be wielded intentionally and effectively to see desired results. This rises and falls on leadership.

The pastor must champion this initiative and catalyze this movement by casting a vision of renewed disciples having a greater Kingdom impact. He must prepare the elders, deacons, and ministry team leaders, so the 40-day journey is embraced wholeheartedly. This includes forming a **Renew Team** within the church to pursue strategic values with humility and courage. Together, they will seek to integrate the 40-days into all areas of church life, model it, and be the captains of communication.

Getting Started

1. The pastor is encouraged to engage with the Renew Montana Champion in his region. The Renew Champion can serve as a guide in the process and offer weekly coaching and encouragement. This engagement will activate the Renew Montana Network to earnestly pray for and encourage each pastor and church seeking renewal. Let's pursue renewal together!
2. The pastor is encouraged to thoughtfully explore the resources of the 40-day Toolkit and dream. What can God do with a church fully submitted to Him? What is the purpose of the 40-days in your church? What are you pursuing?
3. The pastor is encouraged to experience at-least the first 10 days of the 40 Days of Prayer by utilizing the prayer guide. His personal experience of meditation, reflection, responding, and journaling will allow him to cast vision with ministry leaders and the church. Why is the 40-days essential to your mission?
4. Once the pastor fully embraces the 40-days of prayer strategy, it is suggested he form a **Renew Team** with ministry leaders in his church. The Renew Team can explore the Toolkit, dream, and experience at least 10 days of the prayer guide together. It is suggested to connect the Renew Team members with a "Battle Buddy" from within the team and share/pray for at least 10 minutes daily. A quick phone call works. Share what the Lord is revealing and pray together using the prayer prompts to engage the Scripture together.

If desired, steps 3 and 4 can be combined.

5. Once the Renew Team has embraced the process, they will sign the Pastor/Church Covenant with the Renew Montana Champion. This is an editable document. The Renew Team will determine their level of commitment to implementing the suggested steps. Once signed, it's time to start planning, organizing, training, and communicating.

FASTING

It is encouraged to consider a fasting component to the 40-days. Some may fast a meal a day or one day a week for focused prayer. Others may fast three or more days at a time to break a spiritual stronghold in their life. Fasting was prominent in the Old Testament and early Church. It is not widely practiced today. This will require additional teaching (see "Resources"). There are examples of fasts in the life of Moses, Nehemiah, Daniel, Esther, and Joel, with repentance a key element. Jesus taught on fasting in Matthew 6:16-18. Luke mentions Anna fasting and praying (Luke 2:37). The church in Antioch was fasting and praying (Acts 13:1-3). There is power in fasting!

Renew Team Planning Process

Once the team is selected and completes the covenant, it's time to plan. Depending on the size of your church, the promotion and training process can take 30 – 60 days.

1. Calendar

- a. Set a start date to begin 40 days. _____
- b. Set a date for the Concert of Prayer (if desired). _____
- c. Set a date to train worship/music leader. _____
- d. Set a date for Small Group Leaders Training. _____
- e. Set a date for the Celebration Gathering. _____

2. Communication

- a. Cast vision – What is the purpose of the 40-days of prayer? Are there strategic goals you are working towards?
- b. Make Sunday announcements and send weekly emails from the Pastor or Renew Team to galvanize the movement with at least 1 month lead time.
- c. Develop graphics, PowerPoint slides, etc. for the campaign.
- d. Create bulletin inserts and posters.
- e. Cast vision for a personal covenant and a “Battle Buddy”.
- f. Distribute personal covenant templates and Battle Buddy Cards prior to launch.
- g. Send weekly emails during the campaign with encouragement and challenges.
- h. Share testimonies on Sunday and in small groups.

3. Train Leaders

- a. Meet with Worship/Music Team to discuss music, prayer, Scripture integration on Sunday mornings (see “Resources”)
- b. Organize spiritually mature leaders to lead the Scripture and prayer times each Sunday. See examples in “Resources”.
- c. Meet with Small Group Leaders to cast vision, teach them how to pray Scripture. Guide them in leading reflection questions and testimonies. Train leaders to utilize the prayer prompts and encourage each person to pray.

Pastor & Renew Team Covenant

(edit as needed)

Understanding the personal value and church-wide benefit of 40 days of focused prayer and fasting, I, _____, the pastor/church leader of _____ commit to the following steps to ensure the 40 days of prayer and fasting are fruitful.

I am supported by our church's Renew Team.

_____, _____,
_____, _____,
_____, _____



I/We commit to:

Host a **Concert of Prayer** to launch the 40-days and ask each person to sign a personal covenant, making commitments for the 40-days.

Organize small groups (and/or Sunday School classes) and prepare small group leaders (SS teachers) with training and resources for weekly discussion and prayer prompts.

Organize "Battle Buddies" for the 40-days, with each person making a connection for 10 minutes at least 3 times per week, or once a week for 30 minutes.

Coordinate and train the Worship/Music Leaders to integrate the 40-days into the Sunday service with a dedicated time of Scripture-fed and Spirit-led prayer each week.

Integrate the 40-days into sermon preparation with a dedicated series on prayer, fasting, repentance, submission, spiritual disciplines, spiritual renewal, etc.

Encourage the church to share testimonies with one another throughout the 40-days.

Share a weekly email encouragement (from the Pastor/Renew Team) to the church in their 40-day commitments with a personal testimony.

Print the 40-day guide for those who want a hard copy.

Send a daily email with that day's digital version of the prayer guide to the church family with a brief word of encouragement from the pastor or Renew Team.

Host a **Celebration Gathering** after the 40 days using the Celebration Guide to explore next steps in renewal.



40 Days of Prayer and Fasting for Renewal Personal Covenant

Our church has committed to 40 days of focused prayer for spiritual renewal. We are pursuing Christ wholeheartedly, pursuing community within the body of Christ, and pursuing our commission of making disciples. We desire to magnify Christ, edify one another, and have a greater Kingdom impact, so we are collectively offering our lives to the Lord and seeking His face together.

Therefore, I, _____: (Circle all that apply)

- Commit to 40 days of prayer and fasting for spiritual renewal utilizing our prayer guide. I will meditate upon the Scripture and pray daily to see Christ exalted.
- Commit to participating in a small group for reflection and corporate prayer.
- Commit to a Battle Buddy for regular confession and intercessory prayer.
- Commit to celebrating what God does among us over the next 40 days.
- Commit to fast _____.
- Commit to say and do what God commands through His Word and His Spirit.
- Commit to pursuing God's heart for my life, our church, and our town following our 40 days of concentrated prayer and fasting.

Prayer:

Lord, you have been faithful to me and our church in every season. I give myself to You. May my life and the life of our church be a blank check given to You so that You may do what You desire in and through us. Unite our hearts as we commit to seek Your face and pursue You as a church family. Show us more of who You are and what You desire for us, Your people. We commit to give You the honor and glory for Your work in us.

_____ (Signature)

Fill out the check to Jesus as a reflection of a heart of worship. Leave the amount blank, reflecting your willingness for Christ to have all of you. Sign as an act of submission to His calling on your life. Write a personal statement in the memo to express your desire to follow wherever He leads.

A Concert of Prayer

One way to set the tone for 40-days of focused prayer is to launch it with a Concert of Prayer. This worship gathering integrates worship songs, scripture, and worship-based prayers to model Scripture-fed and Spirit-led prayers. The timing and format are flexible. It can be a special gathering away from normal service times or embedded into Sunday morning. Prayer takes the priority! Allow your Renew Team to give input and design a worship experience that emphasizes your desired goals and stated values.

¹⁵ And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Colossians 3:15-17

Format

A concert of prayer has multiple elements of focused prayer. With each element, Scripture is central, and music is sung as prayers. The Pastor is the worship leader for this guided experience, but mature believers can be utilized throughout the service to lead prayer prompts and/or pray the scripture passages. Music can be played softly throughout to enhance the atmosphere with song leaders selecting songs which match the themes of the Scriptures. The prayer times can be done individually, in small groups, or as a large group.

There are a variety of potential formats to create a flow for the prayer time. Each can take 10-15 minutes. One model is Remember, Rejoice, Repent, & Renew. The ACTS model is Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, & Supplication. You can also create three segments with an emphasis on Pursuing Christ, Pursuing Christ's Community, and Pursuing Christ's Commission. You can integrate these or create your own.

God speaks! Take time to cultivate intimacy with Christ in your prayers during each segment and let God speak through His Word while you pray. An open Bible is a wonderful prayer tool whether with Psalms of praise, admonishments, exhortations, or encouragement. Read the Scripture aloud so all can hear. Focus on key words in the text that prompt the heart and pray them reflectively. Ask, is this truth principle true in me? Let the Spirit of God lead and if there is a segment that becomes more fervent with tears, don't interrupt it just to keep on schedule. Take the church before the throne of God and consider how the Scripture leads one to pursue Christ (magnify), pursue community with the body of Christ (edify), and pursue our commission (multiply).

Concert of Prayer – Template

Welcome and Introduction

Pursue Christ (20 minutes)

Remember & Rejoice

Song –

Scripture –

Prayer Prompts

Father, I see your goodness...

Father, You are my...

Father, I thank you for...

Father, I love you because...

Repentance, Renewal, & Requests

Song –

Scripture –

Prayer Prompts

Father, I confess...

Father, help me to...

Father, change in me...

Father, help me to...

Father, I repent of...

Father, I submit to you...

Father, renew in me...

Father, I seek you for...

Pursue Christ's Community (20 minutes)

Remember & Rejoice

Song –

Scripture –

Prayer Prompts

Father, we thank you for...

Father, we praise you for...

Father, you have been faithful to...

Father, we seek you for...

Repentance, Renewal, & Requests

Song –

Scripture –

Prayer Prompts

Father, forgive us for...

Father, we submit to you...

Father, change in us...

Father, help us to...

Father, we confess to you...

Father, renew in us...

Father, lead us to...

Father, we pray for...

Pursue Christ's Commission (20 minutes)

Remember & Rejoice

Song –

Scripture –

Prayer Prompts

Father, we declare to you...

Father, we see in you...

Father, have experienced your...

Father, you have been...

Repentance, Renewal, & Requests

Song –

Scripture –

Prayer Prompts

Father, we confess...

Father, lead us to...

Father, empower us for...

Father, we submit to you...

Father, we pray that you will...

Father, renew in us...

Father, unite us in...

Father, you have promised to...

Battle Buddy

Choose a prayer partner. Call one another 3 times a week to pray for 10 minutes.
OR, commit to meeting at least 30 minutes for prayer once a week.

¹⁶ Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working. James 5:16

REFLECT (Share from 40-day guide responses)

What is the Lord revealing to you?

What has been an encouragement, challenge, or conviction?

How can I pray for you personally?



RESPOND (Use Scripture and/or prompts to seek the Lord)

Father, you are my...

Father, I thank you for...

Father, we confess...

Father, renew in me...

Father, change in me...

Father, you have promised...

Father, help us to...

Father, lead our church...

Father, we seek you for...

Print and cut out these cards

Battle Buddy

Choose a prayer partner. Call one another 3 times a week to pray for 10 minutes.
OR, commit to meeting at least 30 minutes for prayer once a week.

¹⁶ Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working. James 5:16

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Father, you are my...

Father, I thank you for...

Father, we confess...

Father, renew in me...

Father, change in me...

Father, you have promised...

Father, help us to...

Father, lead our church...

Father, we seek you for...

Integrate Worship-based prayer to Sunday Worship

Take a moment to meditate on a passage of Scripture each Sunday during the 40-days and respond with a quiet moment for reflective prayer. Have a mature believer model worship-based prayer for the church family, or use the prayer prompts to guide the church family in prayer for extended times with soft music. Here are examples.

Pursuing Christ:

Leader: Read Psalm 23

Prayer prompts for silent prayer (on screen)

Lord, I praise you for...	Lord, I am thankful for...
Lord, I desperately need...	Lord, I desire to...
Lord, renew in me...	Lord, I submit to you...
Lord, deliver me from...	Lord, forgive me for...
Lord, help me experience...	Lord, help me see...
Lord, change in me...	Lord, I pray my church will...
Lord, help us to...	Lord, lead us to...

Leader: Pray the passage

Pursuing Christ

Leader: Read Psalm 103:1-5 (Part 1)

Prayer prompts for silent prayer (on screen)

Father, I pray that you will forgive me of...	Father, I worship you for...
Father, I pray that you will heal me from...	Father, teach me...
Father, I pray that you will redeem me from...	Father, show me...
Father, I pray you will crown me with...	Father, guide me...
Father, I pray that I will satisfy...	

Leader: Pray the passage

Pursuing Christ

Leader: Read Psalm 103:8-13 (Part 2)

Prayer prompts (on screen)

Father, I thank you for...	Father, remind me of...
Father, forgive me ...	Father, in holy fear...

Leader: Pray the passage

Pursuing Christ

Leader: Read Psalm 103:14-22 (Part 3)

Prayer prompts (on screen)

Father, change my heart...	Father, lead me...
Father, help me...	Father, teach me...
Father, I bless you...	Father, you are...

Leader: Pray the passage

Pursuing Christ

Leader: Read Psalm 111:1-10

Prayer prompts for silent prayer (on screen)

Father, I praise you because...

Father, renew my mind to reflect your greatness so that...

Father, I humble myself before you in reverent fear for...

Father, I thank you for your faithfulness when...

Father, I am grateful that you have provided...

Leader: Pray the passage

Pursuing Christ

Leader: Read Isaiah 40:28-31

Prayer prompts for silent prayer (on screen)

Father, I thank you for...

Father, renew in me...

Father, help me wait upon you as I face...

Father, forgive me for...

Father, strengthen in me...

Father, fill me with...

Leader: Pray the Passage

Pursuing Christ's Community

Leader: Read 1 Corinthians 13

Prayer prompts for silent prayer (on screen)

Father, I pray praise you because...

Father, protect my church from...

Father, renew in my church the desire to...

Father, fill us with the Holy Spirit so that...

Father, forgive me for...

Father, lead us to...

Father, we are desperate for...

Father, bind us together...

Leader: Pray the passage

Pursuing Christ's Community

Leader: Read Romans 12:9-21

Prayer prompts for silent prayer (on screen)

Father, I give you thanks for...

Father, change my heart-posture so that...

Father, change my mindset so that...

Father, I pray that my church family will...

Father, help us to trust you when...

Father, fill me with...

Father, instill in me...

Father, we submit to you...

Leader: Pray the passage

Pursuing Christ's Community

Leader: Read 1 Peter 5:1-11

Prayer prompts for silent prayer (on screen)

Father, I thank you for our pastors...

Father, humble us...

Father, restore, confirm, strengthen us...

Father, I pray my pastors will...

Father, protect us from the devil...

Father, establish us...

Leader: Pray the passage

Pursuing Christ's Community

Leader: Read Galatians 5:13-25

Prayer prompts for silent prayer (on screen)

Father, I praise you because...

Father, renew our church family in our love for one another so that...

Father, help us walk in step with the Holy Spirit and...

Father, in my life, crush the sin of...

Father, bear fruit in us by...

Leader: Pray the passage

Pursuing Christ's Commission

Leader: Read Acts 4:1-22

Prayer prompts for silent prayer (on screen)

Father, we believe...

Father, we proclaim...

Father, in your name...

Father, give me boldness to express...

Father, conquer my fears...

Father, let my testimony be...

Leader: Pray the passage

Pursuing Christ's Commission

Leader: Read Acts 17:22-34

Prayer prompts for silent prayer (on screen)

Father, bring conviction to... Father, draw to yourself...

Father, open the eyes of... Father, give me boldness to express...

Father, help me proclaim to... Father, stir in us a passion for...

Leader: Pray the passage

Pursuing Christ's Commission

Leader: Read Acts 15:1-11

Prayer prompts for silent prayer (on screen)

Father, help us stand... Father, renew in our minds...

Father, help us live... Father, we proclaim...

Father, pour out you Spirit... Father, reveal yourself to...

Leader: Pray the passage

The 40 Days of Prayer

Small Group Experience



And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness. Acts 4:31

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40 Days of Prayer for Spiritual Renewal

Week 1: Small Group Experience – Pursue Christ

Engage as a Spiritual Community (20-25 minutes)

Allow group members to choose a question and share.

- What has been your biggest blessing this week?
- What has been the most challenging this week?
- What are you thankful for this week?
- What is the greatest need in your life right now?
- What has been your most meaningful prayer experience this week?
- How have you seen God at work this week?
- What is one response you are willing to share from your Journal this week?

OPEN IN PRAYER – Adoration, Thanksgiving, Confession & Needs revealed

Edify & Equip as a Spiritual Community (20-25 minutes)

Open your prayer guides & Bibles.

Day 1 – Psalm 103:1-5, Psalm 19:7-11, Psalm 51:7-12, Philippians 4:4-8

Day 2 – 1 Peter 1:13-21

Day 3 – Luke 9:23-26

Day 4 – John 10:1-5

Day 5 – Romans 12:1-2

Day 6 – Psalm 1:1-6

Day 7 – Philippians 3:7-14

Pick a day. What is one WORD or phrase that summarizes that passage? Why?

- What did God reveal to you about PURSUING CHRIST this week?
- What did you learn about spiritual renewal this week?
- Which passage gave you encouragement, inspiration, or conviction?
- How do these passages define a proper mindset and/or heart-posture?
- What steps of obedience and/or faith is God asking from you?

Embrace through prayer as a Spiritual Community (20-25 minutes)

Ask each person to open their Bibles to one of the passages. Take turns praying over portions of their passage in a reflective way. Allow the Holy Spirit to prompt you over the meaning of words and the implications of phrases. Personalize these words and phrases. Consider heart posture and mindset. Turn a negative phrase into a positive or vice versa. Ask God for these things to be true in your life and the life of the church.

Father, you are my...

Father, renew in me...

Father, help us to...

Father, reveal to us...

Father, I thank you for...

Father, change in me...

Father, lead our church...

Father, be mighty to save...

Father, we confess...

Father, we believe...

Father, we seek you...

Father, unleash...

40 Days of Prayer for Spiritual Renewal

Week 2: Small Group Experience – Pursue Christ

Engage as a Spiritual Community (20-25 minutes)

Allow group members to choose a question and share.

- What has been your biggest blessing this week?
- What has been the most challenging this week?
- What are you thankful for this week?
- What is the greatest need in your life right now?
- What has been your most meaningful prayer guide experience this week?
- How have you seen God at work this week? (You, family, church, etc.)
- What is one response you are willing to share from your Journal this week?

OPEN IN PRAYER – Adoration, Thanksgiving, Confession & Needs revealed

Edify & Equip as a Spiritual Community (20-25 minutes)

Open your prayer guides & Bibles.

Day 8 – Psalm 63:1-8

Day 9 – 2 Peter 1:3-11

Day 10 – Colossians 3:1-10

Day 11 – Ephesians 3:14-21

Day 12 – Psalm 40:1-8

Day 13 – Psalm 100:1-5

Pick a day. What is one WORD or phrase that summarizes that passage? Why?

- What did God reveal to you about PURSUING CHRIST this week?
- What did you learn about spiritual renewal this week?
- Which passage gave you encouragement, inspiration, or conviction?
- How do these passages define a proper mindset and/or heart-posture?
- What steps of obedience and/or faith is God asking from you?

Embrace through prayer as a Spiritual Community (20-25 minutes)

Ask each person to open their Bibles to one of the passages. Take turns praying over portions of their passage in a reflective way. Allow the Holy Spirit to prompt you over the meaning of words and the implications of phrases. Personalize these words and phrases. Consider heart posture and mindset. Turn a negative phrase into a positive or vice versa. Ask God for these things to be true in your life and the life of the church.

Father, you are my...	Father, I thank you for...	Father, we confess...
Father, renew in me...	Father, change in me...	Father, we believe...
Father, help us to...	Father, lead our church...	Father, we seek you...
Father, reveal to us...	Father, be mighty to save...	Father, unleash...
Father, forgive me for...	Father, you are worthy...	Father, we love...

40 Days of Prayer for Spiritual Renewal

Week 3: Small Group Experience – Pursue Christ’s Community

Engage as a Spiritual Community (20-25 minutes)

Allow group members to choose a question and share.

- What has been your biggest blessing this week?
- What has been the most challenging this week?
- What are you thankful for this week?
- What is the greatest need in your life right now?
- What has been your most meaningful prayer guide experience this week?
- How have you seen God at work this week? (You, family, church, etc.)
- What is one response you are willing to share from your Journal this week?

OPEN IN PRAYER – Adoration, Thanksgiving, Confession & Needs revealed

Edify & Equip as a Spiritual Community (20-25 minutes)

Open your prayer guides & Bibles.

Day 14 – Matthew 4:23-24; 5:23-24; 7:3-5; 18:15-17; Colossians 3:12-17

Day 15 – Acts 2:42-47

Day 16 – Philippians 2:1-11

Day 17 – John 17:17-23

Day 18 – Ephesians 4:1-6

Day 19 – 1 Peter 2:1-5

Day 20 – Romans 12:3-8

Pick a day. What is one WORD or phrase that summarizes that passage? Why?

- What did God reveal to you about PURSING CHRIST’s Community this week?
- How does the relationships in the Body of Christ lead to spiritual renewal?
- Which passage gave you encouragement, inspiration, or conviction?
- What change is needed in you to live with loyal love with your church family?
- What steps of obedience and/or faith is God asking from you?

Embrace through prayer as a Spiritual Community (20-25 minutes)

Ask each person to open their Bibles to one of the passages. Take turns praying over portions of their passage in a reflective way. Allow the Holy Spirit to prompt you over the meaning of words and the implications of phrases. Personalize these words and phrases. Consider heart posture and mindset. Turn a negative phrase into a positive or vice versa. Ask God for these things to be true in your life and the life of the church.

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Father, lead our church...

Father, be mighty to save...

Father, we confess...

Father, we believe...

Father, we seek you...

Father, unleash...

40 Days of Prayer for Spiritual Renewal

Week 4: Small Group Experience – Pursue Christ’s Community

Engage as a Spiritual Community (20-25 minutes)

Allow group members to choose a question and share.

- What has been your biggest blessing this week?
- What has been the most challenging this week?
- What are you thankful for this week?
- What is the greatest need in your life right now?
- What has been your most meaningful prayer guide experience this week?
- How have you seen God at work this week? (You, family, church, etc.)
- What is one response you are willing to share from your Journal this week?

OPEN IN PRAYER – Adoration, Thanksgiving, Confession & Needs revealed

Edify & Equip as a Spiritual Community (20-25 minutes)

Open your prayer guides & Bibles.

Day 21 – Ephesians 4:7-16

Day 22 – Proverbs 27:17

Day 23 – 1 Thessalonians 2:7-12

Day 24 – 1 Peter 4:7-11

Day 25 – Hebrews 10:22-25

Day 26 – Colossians 1:9-14

What did God reveal to you about PURSING CHRIST’s Community week?

- How do each of these impact the Body of Christ?
 “sharpen, equip, mother, father, serve, strengthen, spur”
- How is the glory of God revealed in our relationships in our church family?
- Which passage gave you encouragement, inspiration, or conviction?
- How have you experienced spiritual community with our group? Testify!
- How can **“we”** better love and serve **“one another”** in practical ways?

Embrace through prayer as a Spiritual Community (20-25 minutes)

Ask each person to open their Bibles to one of the passages. Take turns praying over portions of their passage in a reflective way. Allow the Holy Spirit to prompt you over the meaning of words and the implications of phrases. Personalize these words and phrases. Consider heart posture and mindset. Turn a negative phrase into a positive or vice versa. Ask God for these things to be true in your life and the life of the church.

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Father, we confess...

Father, we believe...

Father, we seek you...

Father, unleash...

40 Days of Prayer for Spiritual Renewal

Week 5: Small Group Experience – Pursue Christ’s Commission

Engage as a Spiritual Community (20-25 minutes)

Allow group members to choose a question and share.

- What has been your biggest blessing this week?
- What has been the most challenging this week?
- What are you thankful for this week?
- What is the greatest need in your life right now?
- What has been your most meaningful prayer guide experience this week?
- How have you seen God at work this week? (You, family, church, etc.)
- What is one response you are willing to share from your Journal this week?

OPEN IN PRAYER – Adoration, Thanksgiving, Confession & Needs revealed

Edify & Equip as a Spiritual Community (20-25 minutes)

Open your prayer guides & Bibles.

Day 27 – Psalm 103:8-13; Luke 15:1-7; 8-10; 11-32

Day 28 – Matthew 28:18-20

Day 29 – 2 Peter 3:8-10

Day 30 – Luke 19:1-10

Day 31 – 1 Peter 2:9-12

Day 32 – Psalm 40:1-10

Day 33 – Acts 4:23-31

- What does Psalm 40 reveal about PURSING CHRIST’s Commission?
- What is the heart of God from the passages in Luke? Share details.
- How have you experienced Psalm 103? Share testimonies.
- Who can share the 3 Circles with the group?
- Who has God given you a burden to pray for and engage with the Gospel?
- What steps of obedience and/or faith is God asking from you?

Embrace through prayer as a Spiritual Community (20-25 minutes)

Ask each person to open their Bibles to one of the passages. Take turns praying over portions of their passage in a reflective way. Allow the Holy Spirit to prompt you over the meaning of words and the implications of phrases. Personalize these words and phrases. Consider heart posture and mindset. Turn a negative phrase into a positive or vice versa. Ask God for these things to be true in your life and the life of the church.

Father, you are my...

Father, renew in me...

Father, help us to...

Father, reveal to us...

Father, I thank you for...

Father, change in me...

Father, lead our church...

Father, be mighty to save...

Father, we confess...

Father, we believe...

Father, we seek you...

Father, unleash...

40 Days of Prayer for Spiritual Renewal

Week 6: Small Group Experience – Pursue Christ’s Commission

Engage as a Spiritual Community (20-25 minutes)

Allow group members to choose a question and share.

- What has been your biggest blessing this week?
- What has been the most challenging this week?
- What are you thankful for this week?
- What is the greatest need in your life right now?
- What has been your most meaningful prayer guide experience this week?
- How have you seen God at work this week? (You, family, church, etc.)
- What is one response you are willing to share from your Journal this week?

OPEN IN PRAYER – Adoration, Thanksgiving, Confession & Needs revealed

Edify & Equip as a Spiritual Community (20-25 minutes)

Open your prayer guides & Bibles.

Day 34 – Luke 10:1-3

Day 35 – Haggai 1:1-11

Day 36 – 2 Corinthians 5:14-21

Day 37 – Romans 10:9-15

Day 38 – Revelation 7:9-12

Day 39 – 2 Corinthians 2:14-17

Day 40 – 1 Thessalonians 1-2

What do these passages reveal about PURSING CHRIST’s Commission?

- What is the significance of being an ambassador?
- How did the Thessalonians turn their town upside down?
- Dream. What can God do with a church fully submitted to Him?
- What change is needed in you to be who God called you to be?
- Pair up. Practice sharing the 3 circles.

Embrace through prayer as a Spiritual Community (20-25 minutes)

Ask each person to open their Bibles to one of the passages. Take turns praying over portions of their passage in a reflective way. Allow the Holy Spirit to prompt you over the meaning of words and the implications of phrases. Personalize these words and phrases. Consider heart posture and mindset. Turn a negative phrase into a positive or vice versa. Ask God for these things to be true in your life and the life of the church.

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40 Days of Prayer Celebration

Host a church-wide meal to celebrate the movement of God in your church. Take time for singing, sharing testimonies, praying, and responding. Ask probing questions that challenge the church in their God-given mission and capture the momentum of the 40-days. This may include “table talk” questions during the meal, or large sticky note tear sheets to record responses that are shared. Examples are given below.

Celebration Meal (30-45 minutes)

Worship Time (10-15 minutes)

Celebration Time (30-45 minutes)



Pursuing Christ

- How has the 40-days impacted your walk with Christ?
- What are ways we can foster deeper connection with Christ as a church?
- Based on your 40-day experience, what is Christ leading you to do?
- Has God led you to personal repentance in any area of life?

Pursuing Christ's Community

- How have you experienced loyal love and unity with our church family?
- How can we build on this momentum and grow closer?
- In what ways do we glorify Christ as a spiritual community?
- What must we do as a church family to better reflect the glory of God?

Pursuing Christ's Commission

- How has the Lord challenged you in your faithful obedience?
- In what ways are we making a positive impact on our town?
- How can we better serve the people in our town?
- How effective are we in disciple-making?
- How are we impacting the nations with the Gospel?

Renew Team Follow-up

After the 40 Day Celebration, gather the Renew Team. Review the responses of the church and consider next steps with these questions.

- Are the mission and vision of the church clear?
- Does our church structure reflect our mission and vision?
- What are clear goals that need be established to refocus and realign the church to her mission and vision?
- Do we want to take another step with the Renew Montana Network to evaluate the spiritual health of the church with the Nine Healthy Church Targets survey?

Resources

Prayer Tools

Praying the Bible – Donald Whitney (Crossway)

<https://www.navigators.org/resource/prayer-tools/>

<https://app.blesseveryhome.com/>

Fasting

<https://www.desiringgod.org/topics/fasting>

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/topics/fasting/>

<https://www.navigators.org/resource/how-to-begin-fasting/>

Spiritual Disciplines

The Supernatural Power of Prayer and Fasting: 12 Ways God Will Change Your Life – Ronnie Floyd

Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life – Donald Whitney

How to Develop a Powerful Prayer Life – Gregory Frizzell

Returning to Holiness – Gregory Frizzell

www.frizzellministries.org

Spiritual Renewal

Falling in Love with Jesus Again

<https://replanthub.com/fallinginlovewithjesusagain/>

<https://www.strategicrenewal.com/>