

- c. Invite the Holy Spirit to work in you to will and to do His good pleasure.
(Philippians 2:13) *For it is God who works in you to will and to act according to His good purpose.*

Spend your day doing the regular duties of your day; but, inwardly continue in prayer, adoration, song, and worship. Cause every task to be done as “unto the Lord.”

During your fast

Here are some helpful suggestions to consider:

- a. Avoid drugs, even natural herbal drugs and homeopathic remedies. Medication should be withdrawn only with your physician’s supervision.
- b. Limit your activity.
- c. Exercise only moderately.
- d. Rest as much as your schedule will permit.
- e. Prepare yourself for temporary mental discomforts, such as impatience, crankiness, and anxiety.
- f. Expect some physical discomforts, especially on the second day. You may have fleeting hunger pains, dizziness, or the “blahs.” If you have hunger pains, increase your liquid intake.
- g. Withdrawal from caffeine and sugar may cause headaches.
- h. Physical annoyances may also include weakness, tiredness, or sleeplessness.

Breaking your fast

Begin eating gradually. Do not eat solid foods immediately after your fast. Suddenly reintroducing solid food to your stomach and digestive tract may have negative consequences. Try several smaller meals or snacks each day. If you end your fast gradually, the beneficial physical and spiritual effects will result in continued good health.

Consider carefully your personal role in the call to prayer and fasting.

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KEY DATES FOR THE CAMPAIGN

Feb 3	Kick off Sunday – Campaign Begins
Feb 3-23	Begins and Ends our Church Wide Journey of Prayer
Feb 17-23	Family Conference Week
Feb 24	Commitment Sunday – Turn in Written Commitments
Feb 6, 13, 20	Church Wide Fast Days

Dear Family Church Family,

One of the principles that becomes clear the longer we walk with the Lord is this: the work of God cannot be accomplished apart from the power of God! “Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me” (John 15:4). Jesus spoke many times of special kingdom concerns that would remain “undoable” apart from supernatural empowerment from Heaven! He sought and found that power through prayer...and calls us to do the same. When God’s people take time to pray and seek His will, God promises to listen and answer!

Family Church is about to enter the most significant time in the history of our family! We believe that He wants to use us to reach the individuals and families in Ouachita Parish with the life-changing reality of Jesus Christ, while challenging all those already serving Him to continue their march toward becoming a Fully Devoted Disciple of Christ.

We encourage you to make this 21-Day Prayer Guide a part of your daily routine as we prepare for the Generations campaign. Here are some tips that will help you make the most of this prayer guide:

1. Select a specific time.
2. Choose a special place that is free from distractions.
3. Consider using this guide as a daily family devotional.
4. Follow the plan in your 21-Day Prayer Guide.
5. If you miss a day, don’t stop.
Pick it up tomorrow where you left off.

Physical preparation

Gradual changes to your usual eating routine will help your transition to fasting so that you can turn your full attention to the Lord in prayer.

Steps to physical readiness

- a. Prepare your body. Eat smaller meals before starting a fast.
Avoid high-fat and sugary foods.
- b. Eat raw fruit and vegetables for two days before starting a fast.

What kind of fast should you do?

There are several ways to fast. You may abstain from food for a whole day. This could mean you would eat dinner one evening and not eat again until dinner the next day. You can choose to do a 24-hour fast. You can commit to a 3-day fast. A 3-day fast is an acceptable way for the Christian to demonstrate the depth of commitment that responds to a serious challenge. Longer fasts of a week, two weeks, a month, or 40 days have proven to lift the participant to a very high level of spiritual awareness and responsiveness to God. Longer fasts are probably better undertaken after you have fasted for shorter periods and are familiar with the way your body reacts.

What do you do during your fast?

To receive the maximum spiritual benefit, set aside ample time to be alone with the Lord. Listen for His leading. The more time you spend with Him, the more meaningful your fast will be.

- a. Begin your day in praise and worship.
- b. Read and meditate on God’s Word, preferably on your knees.

(Ephesians 6:10-18) *10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. 11 Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. 12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. 13 Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. 14 Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, 15 and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. 16 In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. 17 Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. 18 And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.*

On February 24, 2008 every single person and family will be challenged to commit to a two-year pledge to the Generations capital gifts campaign. Your commitment will make it possible for many to come to Christ and for there to be a place of worship for generations to come.

Thank you for taking the first step in what may be the greatest investment of your life.

INTRODUCTION

Purpose of Prayer Guide

This prayer guide has been written to provide the members of Family Church with three focused weeks (21 days) of daily devotions. Our prayer is that this booklet will serve as a guide in stewarding our entire Church family to consider how God would have each single person and family unit commit to a two year financial commitment to the Generations Capital Campaign.

This prayer guide is built upon the three themes of the campaign title - Faith, Family and Future. It is designed to focus on one of the campaign title themes each week. The first week's focus is "Faith," the second is "Family," and our last week's focus will be on "Future." You are encouraged each week to take a few minutes as an individual or family and work through the devotions in preparation for the Family Conference (explained below) and Commitment Sunday.

Family Conference

The Family Conference section of this booklet will provide you with a step-by-step guide as well as other suggestions to help determine your financial commitment to the Generations Capital Campaign. Please read this section as soon as possible so that you can begin to contemplate the suggestions provided. Each family unit will be

encouraged to schedule a family conference some time between February 17 and 23, for the purpose of seeking to determine the specific financial commitment God would have you make to the Generations Capital Campaign. A specific time that is free of distractions is best in order to discuss, read, and pray according to the guidelines given in this section of the booklet. We believe that God will reveal His will to every person and family who seeks Him through this process of prayer.

Church Wide Fast

Over the next three weeks you and your family will be asked to join in with the rest of the Church body at Family Church and fast two meals (breakfast and lunch) on Wednesday of each week. There is a section in this booklet on “How to Fast” that will help guide you in this spiritual discipline. Fasting is modeled in Scripture not as an obligation, but rather as an opportunity to take a believer’s mind off the cares of the world and focus on the person of Christ, the character of God, and the presence of the Holy Spirit. You and your family will be asked to consider fasting for this one day each week during the Generations campaign. Note: Some people should not fast for health reasons. Please be sure to read the “How to Fast” section found at the end of this booklet.

A Word on Stewardship and the Tithe

Stewardship is the recognition that God owns all we possess. It is an acknowledgment that God provides the resources for our lives and, through us, the resources for God’s work and God’s church. We are managers, or stewards, of what God has provided for our lives. We are accountable for all that He has placed into our lives, not just for a portion of that amount. Our giving must always be an act of obedience, love, and gratitude to God, the Provider.

God’s Word clearly teaches that cheerful giving is the pattern that

- d. Ask God to fill you with His Holy Spirit according to His promise and his command.
(I John 5:14-15) 14 This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. 15 And if we know that he hears us —whatever we ask — we know that we have what we asked of him.
(Ephesians 5:18) Don’t drink too much wine, for many evils lie along that path; be filled instead with the Holy Spirit and controlled by Him.
- e. Surrender your life to Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord with total submission and humility.
(Romans 12:2) Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will know how good and pleasing and perfect his will really is.
- f. Begin your time of fasting and prayer with an expectant heart that hungers and thirsts after righteousness.
(Matthew 5:6) Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.
- g. Remember that spiritual opposition may intensify as you seek to follow the prompting of the Holy Spirit in prayer and fasting.
(Galatians 5:16-17) 16 So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won’t be doing what your sinful nature craves. 17 The sinful nature wants to do evil, which is just the opposite of what the Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us desires that are the opposite of what the sinful nature desires. These two forces are constantly fighting each other, so you are not free to carry out your good intentions.

Spiritual preparation

Preparation for a Holy Spirit-called fast begins with repentance and confession. If there is unconfessed sin in your heart, God will not hear you.

(Psalm 66:18-20) 18 If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened; 19 But God has surely listened and heard my voice in prayer. 20 Praise be to God, who has not rejected my prayer or withheld his love from me!

(Isaiah 59:2) But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.

Steps to spiritual readiness

a. Confess every sin that the Holy Spirit calls to your remembrance and accept God's forgiveness.
(1 John 1:9) If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

b. Seek forgiveness from all whom you have offended and forgive all who have hurt you.

(Mark 11:25) And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins.
(Luke 11:4) Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us.

c. Make restitution as the Holy Spirit leads you.
(Luke 17:3-4) 3 So watch yourselves. If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him. 4 If he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times comes back to you and says, "I repent," forgive him.

committed Christians follow out of obedience to and love for the Lord (Proverbs 3:9-10, Acts 4:32-35 and 2 Corinthians 9:6-8). It is the desire of the leadership of Family Church that your financial commitment to the Generations Capital Campaign be in addition to your regular tithe. We ask that you continue to honor God with His tithe and not allow this commitment to interfere with that act of obedience to God and His Word.

A SUGGESTED BEGINNING

So that each person understands what the Generations campaign is all about, the leader of the family devotional should explain it in simple terms. Your explanation might go something like this:

“God wants every single person and family in our church to prepare for a time of giving and discovering His plans for us and our church. For each of the next 21 days, we’re going to take some time and work through the daily devotionals and pray together each day so that we as a family are fully prepared to make this important decision concerning our commitment to the Generations Capital Campaign.”

Yes, it's that simple!

Now before we get started, let's look at the format of the daily devotional.

DAILY DEVOTIONAL FORMAT

The purpose of this 21 day prayer devotional is to prepare you for the Generations Capital campaign. Each daily devotion is divided into five parts: Read, Meditate, Reflect, Pray, and Apply. Each part will strengthen your relationship with God and help you understand His will for you in this campaign.

Read:	Read the entire selected Bible passage.
Meditate:	Think about the key verse.
Reflect	Read the reflective thought that explains each day's chosen Bible Passage. Ask yourself how the Bible passage applies to your life.
Pray:	Communicate with God every day. Ask Him to reveal to you how to apply that day's scripture in your life, and how He wants you to participate in the campaign.
Apply:	As you work through each day's devotion, consider the suggested application, and write down in the space provided any thoughts or ideas that apply to your growth as a Follower of Christ and to your involvement in the Generations Campaign.

A GUIDETO FASTING

Why fast?

The purpose of fasting and prayer is to discern God's will by eliminating distractions and intentionally focusing on Him. If you sincerely humble yourself before the Lord, repent, pray, and seek His face, and if you consistently meditate on His Word, you will experience a heightened awareness of His presence.

What is fasting?

Fasting is the removal of those things that may prevent us from discerning God's will and yielding ourselves to His purpose. It is usually, but not limited to, foregoing food so that one may concentrate more completely on hearing God.

Who should fast?

Fasting is a very personal decision to be undertaken for spiritual renewal, guidance, healing, resolution of problems, or for special grace to handle a difficult situation. Ask the Holy Spirit to clarify His leading and objectives for your prayer fast. This will enable you to pray more specifically and strategically.

How does one fast?

- a. Consider your physical condition. The healthy body can withstand long periods without solid food sustained by liquids including water and juices, but there are some people who should not fast, especially those who take prescription medications or have a chronic ailment. If you have a medical condition or are pregnant, do not fast without consulting your doctor.
- b. Consider your spiritual condition. Unconfessed sin will hinder your prayers.

5) Ask each family member to talk about commitments they could make in order to give to God through the Generations Campaign now and over the next two years. Be sure to include each child so that every family member has the opportunity to experience the joy of giving sacrificially to God. Make a list of your family's ideas.

6) Prayerfully decide as a family what you will give, and write it down on the commitment card which you will receive in the mail.

7) Close in a prayer of commitment asking God to provide for your family as you step out in faith, asking Him to give you joy in giving, and thanking Him for what He has done and will do in the future.

TOOLS TO HELP YOU PRAY

As you read through the daily devotional and pray for the things suggested, you may also want to include other prayers. To deepen your prayer life, here is an easy tool to use.

PRAY BY USING THE ACRONYM A.C.T.S.

ADORATION: When we talk to God, we first want to tell Him how great He is. We call that ADORATION. He is a perfect God and yet loved us even when we were sinners – His enemies.

CONFESSION: Because God is HOLY, and we have all fallen short of His Holiness, we must confess our sins and seek forgiveness from Him. We are born in sin; therefore, confession is just agreeing with God that we have done wrong things and then we must name them. God already knows our hearts, and He will reveal any unconfessed sin, IF we are listening. When we have agreed with all that God reveals, then our hearts are pure and ready to hear from Him. We are clean again and our relationship with Him is restored.

THANKSGIVING: We need to thank Him for all that He has given us, the good and the bad – because He knows what is best for us.

SUPPLICATION: This is the time that we ask Him to meet the needs of our friends and loved ones and ourselves, remembering to ask Him to do what He knows is best for each one.

FAMILY PRAYER ACTIVITY

Look up each of the words listed above in the dictionary. How did the definition of the words make a change in your thinking about what to pray about? Think of an illustration or have the children draw an illustration of each part of the A.C.T.S. acrostic.

THE FOCUS FOR WEEK

ONE

IS

FAITH

Key Statement for the Week

“Without faith it is impossible to please God.”

FAMILY CONFERENCE GUIDE

SEVEN SUGGESTED STEPS:

1) Leaders should begin with prayer, inviting God’s presence and leadership in the conference and asking God to give a spirit of love, unity and unselfishness.

2) As a family, read and discuss the Bible passages listed below and what they teach about God’s principles for giving.

Proverbs 3:9-10

Proverbs 11:24-25

Matthew 6:19-21

2 Corinthians 9:6–12

3) Compare God’s principles for giving with what the world seems to believe about giving.

4) Spend time praying as a family. Let each member pray sentence prayers:

- Thanking and praising God for His grace and provisions in our lives.
- Asking God for direction and help in making a family decision concerning the financial commitment to the Generations Campaign.

HOW TO HOLD A FAMILY CONFERENCE

PURPOSE:

The Family Conference is a one-time family gathering that will be held sometime during the week of February 17 – 23. The purpose of the family conference/gathering is to determine what God is leading your family to give to the Generations Capital Campaign.

PREPARATION:

- 1) Participate in the preceding daily devotions in this guide so that God has the opportunity to prepare every family member’s heart. Also, if possible, participate in the three days of corporate fasting as denoted in the prayer guide.
- 2) Set an appointed time for the conference, free of distraction, for your entire family to meet, pray, study and discuss what your financial commitment will be. The conference will likely take 30 minutes to an hour, depending upon the age of the children.
- 3) Instruct each family member to begin thinking of ways to give so the entire family can participate towards God’s work through the Generations Campaign.

DATES:

We want to encourage your family to take time out for this special event sometime between February 17 and 23. You simply pick a time that week that is both convenient and quiet for the whole family, and work through the following suggested steps. Remember, Commitment Sunday is February 24.

LEADER:

Preferably the head of household, with all family members present.

Day 1 – February 3

Read: Hebrews 11:1-6

Meditate: “And it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to Him must believe that God exists and that He rewards those who sincerely seek Him.”

Reflect: A faithless life can never please God, but God rewards those who seek Him. Faith is the fuel that propels you to experience God in a way you never have before.

Pray: Father, help me to sincerely seek You during the next 21 days. I pray that You will speak specifically to me and my family and take us to the next level in our walk with You.

Apply: What changes in your life are you willing to make in order for God to take you to the next level?

Day 2 – February 4

Read: Ephesians 2:1-10

Meditate: “God saved you by His grace when you believed. And you can’t take credit for this; it is a gift from God.”

Reflect: Faith is what opens the way to a relationship with God. Because of faith in Christ, we are saved from the penalty of our sins.

Pray: Thank you Jesus for forgiving me of my sins and erasing them from my eternal record. You are the only one who can save me. Lord, thank you for Family Church. Continue to make it clear to me how you want to use me and my family here.

Apply: Can you remember a time in your life when you agreed with God that you are a sinner in need of a Savior?

Day 21 – February 23

Read: Matthew 6:19-21

Meditate: “Don’t store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them and where thieves break in and steal. Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy and thieves do not break in and steal. Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.”

Reflect: God gives each one of us the opportunity to “buy into a dream that is bigger than us!” Our money and our possessions here on earth won’t last forever, but we can invest in things with eternal significance. Through the ministries of Family Church we can impact the lives of future generations for the glory of God.

Pray: Father, as we get ready to use our resources to help advance Your kingdom, show us what sacrifices we need to make that would enable us to give what You would have us give. We want to invest strategically in things that have an eternal impact, in the lives of others.

Apply: How does God want you and your family to be a part of what He is doing at Family Church? How can God use you and your family to impact the future?

Day 20 – February 22

Read: 2 Corinthians 9:6-12

Meditate: “You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don’t give reluctantly or in response to pressure. For God loves a person who gives cheerfully.”

Reflect: God blesses us financially to see if we will hold that blessing with open hands or closed fists. We are not to give because someone talks us into it or tells us we must. Rather, we give out of appreciation for the grace God has extended to us. He promises to generously provide all we need when we cheerfully give to Him.

Pray: Thank You, Father, for blessing us with spiritual and financial gifts. Please reveal clearly to us the specific financial commitment You are calling us to make to You. We want to make an eternal investment in Your kingdom.

Apply: Am I holding my finances with an open hand or closed fists? Will I cheerfully give back to God a portion of what He has given to me?

Day 3 – February 5

Read: 1 Corinthians 1:1-3

Meditate: “I am writing to God’s church in Corinth (*or Family Church*), to you who have been called by God to be His holy people. He made you holy by means of Christ Jesus, just as He did for all people everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, their Lord and ours.”

Reflect: Once God saves you, He sets you apart – that is what sanctified means. God calls you to holy living so He can use you mightily for His kingdom’s work. You were saved for a purpose!

Pray: God, I stand in awe of You! You desire to do remarkable things through my life and Family Church. May I never doubt what You can do through me. Help me be totally surrendered to You and Your plan for my life. Please begin Your greatest work in me today.

Apply: Are you pursuing what God has called you to do for Him?

Day 4 – February 6

(Church wide fast today)

Read: Romans 8: 1-9

Meditate: “And because you belong to Him, the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you from the power of sin that leads to death.”

Reflect: Because of the Holy Spirit living inside us, Satan cannot have his way with us. When we allow the Holy Spirit to be in control, we are set free from the power of sin and can overcome temptation.

Pray: Father, help me to allow Your Holy Spirit to be in control of my everyday life. I pray that everything I say and do today will bring You glory and further Your kingdom. Thank You for setting me free from the power of sin.

Apply: In what ways can I bring honor to God today? What tempting situations need to be avoided? Is there any sin, in any area of my life, which I need to confess to God?

Day 19 – February 21

Read: Philippians 2:3-11

Meditate: “Don’t be selfish, don’t try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. Don’t look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too.”

Reflect: Take your focus off yourself and invest in the life of someone else. Jesus spent a lot of his time on earth cultivating life-changing friendships. By putting others first, He set the example for us to follow. Who can you build a relationship with that needs to know Jesus? Invite them to come with you to Family Church!

Pray: Jesus, help us to slow down and focus on putting others ahead of ourselves as You did. Who do You want me to invest in a relationship with in order to show them Your love? As we at Family Church strive to reach more people with Your life-changing love, give us a heart of compassion for those who need You.

Apply: Who do you come in contact with that doesn’t yet know Jesus -- the check-out girl, the waitress at lunch, someone in your own family? Let them see Jesus in you.

Day 18 – February 20

(Church wide fast today)

Read: Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

Meditate: “Two people are better off than one, for they can help each other succeed. If one person falls, the other can reach out and help. But someone who falls alone is in real trouble.”

Reflect: Within the context of a loving church home like Family Church, it is safe to open up and be real with one another. God uses us to minister to each other as we share life together, hold each other accountable and help one another through the hard times. Like the coals in a fire, together we can produce warmth and energy. Alone we grow cold.

Pray: Thank You, Father, for Family Church. It is a place where I am loved and challenged to live the life You have called me to live. Continue to show me and my family what You would have us do to support Your church.

Apply: Will you be willing to be open and real within your small group? How can you be a blessing to others in your group?

Day 5 – February 7

Read: Hebrews 11:1

Meditate: “Faith is the confidence that what we hope for will actually happen; it gives us assurance about things we cannot see.”

Reflect: God will bless Family Church and honor our goals to increase His family according to His will. We know this because we have faith in His Word. God responds to faith, which is the confidence that He is willing to use His power to answer our prayers.

Pray: Father, my prayer is that Family Church will unite together in the faith that Your work will be done through this campaign because we seek Your will. I will not cease to thank You for the mighty work You are doing here at Family Church. Please continue to pour Your Spirit out upon us!

Apply: How much time will I devote to prayer today? Will I pray for my family and my church to be used by God?

Day 6 – February 8

Read: Jude 1:1-3

Meditate: “Dear friends, I had been eagerly planning to write to you about the salvation we all share. But now I find that I must write about something else, urging you to defend the faith that God has entrusted once for all time to His holy people.”

Reflect: As Jude urges us to “defend the faith,” he is referring to what we believe about God. What we believe about God determines our attitude toward God and our relationship with God. It is the most important aspect of our faith so it must be the absolute truth as revealed in God’s Word.

Pray: Lord, I want to really know You – Your character and Your ways – as revealed in Your Word. Help me to spend quiet time with You today. Please make me aware of any distorted view or belief that I have of You and teach me Your truth.

Apply: Am I truly living what I believe about God every day? Do my beliefs line up with God’s Word?

Day 17 – February 19

Read: Isaiah 55:3-9

Meditate: “My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts, says the Lord. And my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine. For just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so my ways are higher than your ways and my thoughts higher than your thoughts.”

Reflect: Many times we have unrealistic expectations about what our life or marriage or church should look like. We must always remember that God’s ways are higher than our ways. We need to see the future of Family Church through His eyes. He has plans far beyond anything that we can imagine!

Pray: God, help me remember that Your ways are higher than mine. Transform my mind and open my heart to the commitment You want from me. I wait expectantly for You to act in a big way in my life and at Family Church.

Apply: What unrealistic expectations do I need to let go of so I can see God work in a mighty way?

Day 16 –February 18

Read: Ephesians 4:29-32

Meditate: “...be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.”

Reflect: Forgiveness is necessary to enable us to move forward into our future – fulfilling God’s purpose in our lives. Remember Joseph’s words in Genesis 50:20, “You intended to harm me but God intended it for good.” God can use our past hurts (wounds and scars) and turn them around for good.

Pray: Lord, help me to forgive those who have hurt me and caused me pain in the past. I release them to You so that I can move forward. Please use my pain for Your purposes and make my life matter for eternity.

Apply: Who do I need to forgive, even if they are not sorry for what they have done? Who do I need to share my story with that might benefit from my experiences?

Day 7 – February 9

Read: Psalm 63

Meditate: “I have seen you in your sanctuary and gazed upon your power and glory.”

Reflect: God created us to enjoy a rich relationship with Him. David instructs us to seek God; to thirst and hunger for Him. At Family Church, you often experience God in our physical sanctuary. Later, God will cause you to remember those worship experiences when you need Him most. You can also experience God in your own sanctuary. Your home can be one of the greatest places for you and your family to experience God.

Prayer: God, You are holy and almighty. I have seen Your power and glory. Thank You for manifesting Your presence at Family Church. May the sanctuary continue to behold Your power. May our home become a sanctuary for You.

Apply: Am I allowing my life and my home to be like a sanctuary where God’s presence can dwell?

THE FOCUS FOR WEEK

TWO IS FAMILY

Key Statement for the week

“We believe that family is the heartbeat of God.”

Day 15 – February 17

Read: Exodus 20:1-17; Mark 12:28-31

Meditate: “Jesus replied, The most important commandment is this: ‘Listen, O Israel! The Lord our God is the one and only Lord. And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.’ The second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ No other commandment is greater than these.”

Reflect: We need to get “Back to the Basics” in obedience to God’s commands. Jesus said to love God and love others. Don’t let anyone convince you that these commands are no longer applicable. God still wants us to obey Him today.

Pray: Heavenly Father, help me to walk in right relationship with You – as I strive to obey You and honor You with everything I say and do, today. Also, help me to see others through Your eyes and treat them with Your love.

Apply: In what area of my life (at home, at work, or financially) do I need to put God first? Who do I need to show God’s love to today?

THE FOCUS FOR WEEK

THREE

IS

FUTURE

Key statement for the week

“When we learn how to live today successfully,
we’ve already got a head start on doing the same
tomorrow.”

Day 8 – February 10

Read: Joshua 24:14-15

Meditate: “Choose today whom you will serve... but as for me and my family we will serve the Lord.”

Reflect: Family Church believes that at the center of what God has purposed to do in this world is family – the heartbeat of God. Family Church strives to help families learn God’s way and live that out in their homes.

God’s way = the Bible Way!

Pray: Heavenly Father, we as a family want to choose today to serve You. We want to commit to “do family” Your way without compromise. Thank You for bringing us to Family Church where we can be clearly taught from Your Word, the Bible.

Apply: What thing or things might we need to sacrifice or realign in our family in order to “do family” God’s way? Do we give Him the best of our time, talents and treasures?

Day 9 – February 11

Read: Mark 10:1-9

Meditate: “But God made them male and female from the beginning of creation. This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one. Since they are no longer two but one, let no one split apart what God has joined together.”

Reflect: God’s way is for Dad and Mom to say, “We’re in this marriage for the long haul!” The husband-wife relationship is the most important relationship within the family. It must be closely guarded, protected and honored even above any parent-child relationship. God regards Christian marriage as a holy calling and we should too.

Pray: Lord, please bless our marriage. I pray that we will have eyes and thoughts only for each other. Alert me to any tempting situations that need to be avoided today.

Apply: In what practical ways am I guarding my marriage? How often do I pray for my marriage? Do I view my marriage as a ministry unto God?

Day 14 – February 16

Read: Psalm 78:1-7

Meditate: “We will not hide these truths from our children. We will tell the next generation about the glorious deeds of the Lord, about His power and His mighty wonders... So each generation should set its hope anew on God, not forgetting his glorious miracles and obeying his commands.”

Reflect: As we at Family church enter into this adventure of re-facing, rebuilding and building anew, we can know that all this effort is going on only to help us preach and teach “family, God’s way” more effectively.

Pray: Father, You know the names of every individual and family that calls Family Church home. You also know the names of every individual and family that our future ministry will touch. Some of these are the children that now live in our homes. I pray that the church will fulfill the potential that it has in You and that we will rely fully on Your awesome power to change lives through us especially those lives of our own children.

Apply: How does God want to use me in future ministry at Family Church? Am I leaving a spiritual legacy to my children?

Day 13 – February 15

Read: 1 Corinthians 13:1-7

Meditate: “Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable and it keeps no record of being wronged.”

Reflect: Why do we say ugly things to our family that we wouldn’t dream of saying to a friend? We need to love one another with God’s kind of love and remember to expect and accept differences. When we make Christ the center of our family, forgiveness is found, wounds are healed and relationships are restored.

Pray: Lord I can never thank You enough for the family that You have given me. I pray that my family would give You first place in our lives and that You would help us to love, accept and forgive one another’s faults. Unify us so that we can work together as a team and strengthen us so we can endure the tough times.

Apply: Reread the verse above. Is this the kind of love that you display in your home?

Day 10 – February 12

Read: Deuteronomy 6:1-9

Meditate: “And you must commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these commands that I am giving you today. Repeat them again and again to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are on the road, and when you are going to bed and when you are getting up.”

Reflect: Of all the people in the world, God chose you to teach your children about Him and His ways. God has called you to teach your children to know Him personally, love Him, and serve Him throughout life. They will be looking at you and imitating your example of godliness at home.

Pray: Jesus, You were the perfect example of what God is like. Please help me to be like You as I strive to be a godly example in my home. Holy Spirit, change me from the inside out and enable me to do what is right in every situation. Help me to live a life that is worthy to be imitated by my children.

Apply: Have you talked to your family about how God is leading you right now? Have you thanked God for a church that honors and supports the family?

Day 11 – February 13

(Church wide fast today)

Read: Malachi 3:6-12

Meditate: “Bring all the tithes into the storehouse so there will be enough food in my Temple. If you do, says the Lord of Heaven’s Armies, I will open the windows of heaven for you. I will pour out a blessing so great you won’t have enough room to take it in! Try it! Put me to the test!”

Reflect: The tithe belongs to the Lord. That means the first 10% of everything we make is His. We can also bring God offerings above and beyond the tithe because we are so grateful to Him for all His blessings. Consider what God has given you: your family, health and many material possessions. How can we rightfully withhold our finances from God when they are blessings from Him to begin with?

Pray: Father, please forgive me if I have cheated You in the past by not bringing You my tithe and offerings. I want to honor You with my life as well as my finances. I desire to give generously to You out of the gratefulness of my heart to see Your purpose done in this earth.

Apply: What has the Holy Spirit impressed me to give to Him and to others? Am I obeying?

Day 12 – February 14

Read: Isaiah 58:13-14

Meditate: “Keep the Sabbath day holy. Don’t pursue your own interests on that day, but enjoy the Sabbath and speak of it with delight as the Lord’s holy day. Honor the Sabbath in everything you do on that day, and don’t follow your own desires or talk idly.”

Reflect: Remember keeping the Sabbath day holy is the fourth of the Ten Commandments. God gave us this day as a gift. We need to gather for corporate worship, spiritual encouragement and rest on that day. In our modern society observing the Sabbath is counter cultural, but God knew that we cannot continue non-stop seven days a week without rest. He desires for us to honor Him and rest on the Sabbath.

Pray: God, help our family to slow down and focus on You every Sunday. We are grateful for Family Church where Your presence is felt and taught. Continue to make it clear to our family how we can help the church (my church) fulfill its mission.

Apply: Is Sunday a restful day at your house? What activities could be dropped in order to focus on God and rest on the Sabbath?
