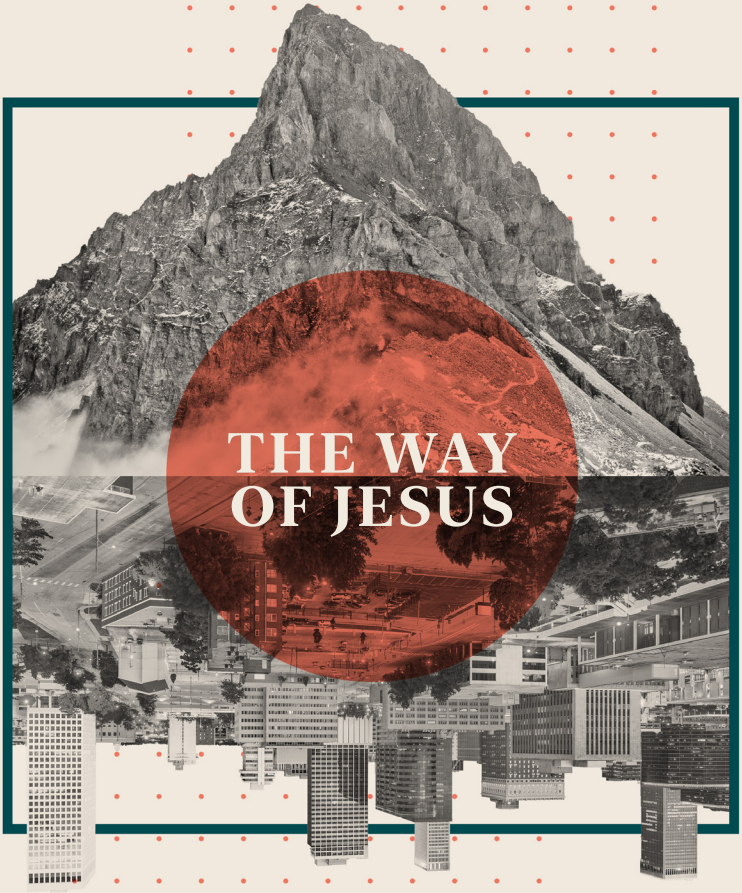

THE WAY OF JESUS

A 21-DAY CHALLENGE

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Church on the Move

PREFACE

"REPENT, FOR THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS AT HAND!"

Have you read those words before? This is one of the first phrases Jesus began to say at the launch of his public ministry (see Matthew 4:17). What if you could have been there to hear it?

In fact, let's go there. Imagine yourself standing on the beautiful shores of the Sea of Galilee on a sunny, first-century day and this brilliant, young rabbi seems to have gone out of his way to speak to you. He says, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" How do you imagine these words would have struck you?

Do you think of Jesus as having an angry, exasperated tone of voice? Do you see a furrowed brow? Do you imagine a pointed finger? Is he yelling at you like an indignant street-corner preacher? God incarnate is standing before you. Is his first move really to shame you?

Good news. Shame is certainly not the emotion you would have felt. These words were a summoning—a compelling invitation that would have evoked an entirely different kind of feeling than condemnation. The people who heard this call from Jesus would have experienced heart-pounding, foot-tapping, butterflies-in-the-stomach anticipation!

Jesus is telling us that a new way of life, previously inaccessible, is now here. And it's no coincidence that "the kingdom of heaven" comes when Jesus shows up on the scene. This bidding to a life in the kingdom is first given to a rather odd group—Galilean fishermen (see Matthew 4:18-22). These fishermen do exactly what Jesus tells them they can do—they repent. They drop their nets, leave their old lives behind, and set out on the adventure of following Jesus. And what an adventure it is! According to the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus immediately begins to perform miracles there in Galilee and crowds begin to follow him from all over Israel (see Matthew 4:23-25). Then these fishermen-turned-disciples steal away from the masses

to a quiet mountain, and they sit at his feet, ready to listen and learn from their rabbi. What comes next may be the single greatest moral teaching of all time—what we call the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7).

Wiser than the ancient writings of Solomon, more brilliant than the philosophies of Plato and Socrates, the Sermon on the Mount is Jesus' manifesto for a way of life in a new kingdom. Have you read this sermon before? Jesus says some pretty shocking things. We quickly learn that Jesus doesn't just expect his disciples to hear what he says; he seems to act like we can actually do what he says. In other words, Jesus is inviting us to be on mission and empowering us to do it. We are called to consider the way of Jesus and put his words into motion in our lives. At Church on the Move, we describe the way of Jesus like this: Know God, Grow in Freedom, Discover Purpose, Go Make a Difference.

This 21-Day Challenge prayer guide is called *The Way of Jesus*. It's not a formula. It's an adventure—a new way of life. For the next three weeks, you're invited to engage Jesus' amazing words in the Sermon on the Mount, verse-by-verse. You'll read and pray through what Jesus has to say about life on mission. And you'll take simple steps to put it into action.

Here, today, you are standing before your rabbi, Jesus. He's inviting you to come follow him. "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" Our prayer for you over the next 21 days is that you too will experience that heart-pounding, foot-tapping, butterflies-in-the-stomach sense of anticipation. What kind of life is Jesus inviting you into? What can a big God do with your small acts of obedience? This is what it's like to follow the *real* Jesus.

YOUR 21-DAY CHALLENGE

We believe 2020 will be the best year of your life if it's your best year spiritually. James 4:8 says, "Come close to God, and God will come close to you." The 21-Day Challenge is designed to help you do just that through Bible reading, meditation, prayer, and fasting. Maybe the best part is you don't have to do it alone. Would you consider making these two 21-Day Challenge commitments with your church family?

A PERSONAL COMMITMENT

The first is a personal commitment to 21 days of Scripture reading, meditation, prayer, and fasting. Included in this prayer devotional are passages from the Gospel of Matthew and 21 daily prayers. See the next page for types of fasting you might choose.

A COMMUNITY COMMITMENT

The second is a community commitment to be part of our 21 Days of Prayer services. Whether you join us in person at your Church on the Move location or online at COTM.live, we would love to have you pray with us as a church each day for 21 days. We'll worship together, pray for specific topics, and have a time for personal prayer needs.

CHOOSING YOUR
FAST

Jesus began his ministry with a fast and encouraged his followers to do so from time to time. Every year during this season, we choose a fast for 21 days. Fasting is simply a way to remind ourselves that we are dependent upon God, and his strength is made perfect in our weakness. Here are examples of the different types of fasts you might consider:

COMPLETE FAST

Talk to your doctor before you participate in this one, but it's just like it sounds. Complete or total fasting means you drink liquids only for all or a designated portion of our 21-day challenge (e.g. water or light juices).

SELECTIVE FAST

The majority of us will choose a selective fast. Scripture talks about this type of fast as choosing not to eat certain foods or drinks. The Daniel Fast is one example of a selective fast—no meats, sweets, or breads for 21 days. Whole 30, vegan/plant-based, and Paleo are popular fasts as well.

INTERMITTENT FAST

This was a common type of fast for the Hebrew people. This is designating certain times of the day for fasting. For example, no eating sunup to sundown or choosing to eat in the morning or afternoon only.

INPUT FAST

While this is not technically a category of fasting we find in Scripture, it's worthy of your consideration. An input fast can mean turning off social media, the news, television, movies, music, or turning off screens altogether. The point of this type of fast is to guard the types of things that go into your mind and heart through your eyes and ears during this season.

DAY
01

READ

Take a breath. Turn your heart toward God. Consider these words of Jesus from the Sermon on the Mount:

> *One day as he saw the crowds gathering,*
> *Jesus went up on the mountainside and sat down.*
>
> *His disciples gathered around him,*
> *and he began to teach them.*
>
> *"God blesses those who are poor and realize their*
> *need for him, for the kingdom of heaven is theirs.*
>
> *God blesses those who mourn,*
> *for they will be comforted.*
>
> *God blesses those who are humble*
> *for they will inherit the whole earth.*
>
> *God blesses those who hunger and thirst for justice,*
> *for they will be satisfied.*
>
> *God blesses those who are merciful,*
> *for they will be shown mercy.*
>
> *God blesses those whose hearts are pure,*
> *for they will see God.*
>
> *God blesses those who work for peace,*
> *for they will be called the children of God.*
>
> *God blesses those who are persecuted for doing right,*
> *for the kingdom of heaven is theirs.*
>
> *God blesses you when people mock you and persecute you*
> *and lie about you and say all sorts of evil things against you*
>
> *because you are my followers. Be happy about it! Be very glad!*
> *For a great reward awaits you in heaven. And remember,*
>
> *the ancient prophets were persecuted in the same way."*
>
> MATTHEW 5:1-12 NLT

MEDITATE

Jot down your first thoughts and questions below. Read the passage again a second and third time. Read slowly. Who does Jesus say is really blessed? What can you learn about the way of Jesus here?

PRAY

Come close to God. He'll come close to you. Let these words of Jesus lead you into a few moments of prayer. Write out your prayer:

> *Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.*
>
> *May the kingdom of heaven come.*
>
> *May your will be done in my life and in my world today...*

ACTIVATE

Jesus is inviting you to follow him on mission—to know God, grow in freedom, discover purpose, and go make a difference! What's a simple step you can take to activate the way of Jesus in your life today?

DAY
02

READ

Take a breath. Turn your heart toward God. Consider these words of Jesus from the Sermon on the Mount:

> *You are the salt of the earth.*
>
> *But what good is salt if it has lost its flavor?*
>
> *Can you make it salty again?*
>
> *It will be thrown out and trampled underfoot as worthless.*
>
> *You are the light of the world*
>
> *(you're) like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden.*
>
> *No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket.*
>
> *Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house.*
>
> *In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see,*
>
> *so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.*
>
> MATTHEW 5:13-16 NLT

MEDITATE

Jot down your first thoughts and questions below. Read the passage again a second and third time. Read slowly. How does Jesus describe his disciples on mission? What is the purpose of good works?

PRAY

Come close to God. He'll come close to you. Let these words of Jesus lead you into a few moments of prayer. Write out your prayer:

> *Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.*
>
> *May the kingdom of heaven come.*
>
> *May your will be done in my life and in my world today...*

ACTIVATE

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DAY
03

READ

Take a breath. Turn your heart toward God. Consider these words of Jesus from the Sermon on the Mount:

> *Don't misunderstand why I have come.*
>
> *I did not come to abolish the law of Moses*
> *or the writings of the prophets.*
>
> *No, I came to accomplish their purpose.*
>
> *I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear,*
>
> *not even the smallest detail of God's law will disappear*
>
> *until its purpose is achieved.*
>
> *So if you ignore the least commandment*
> *and teach others to do the same,*
>
> *you will be called the least in the kingdom of heaven.*
>
> *But anyone who obeys God's laws and teaches them*
>
> *will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.*
>
> *But I warn you—unless your righteousness is better*
>
> *than the righteousness of the teachers of*
> *religious law and the Pharisees,*
>
> *you will never enter the kingdom of heaven!*
>
> MATTHEW 5:17-20 NLT

MEDITATE

Jot down your first thoughts and questions below. Read the passage again a second and third time. Read slowly. To whom is Jesus referring with words like accomplish and achieved? How can your righteousness possibly be seen as more than the pharisees?

PRAY

Come close to God. He'll come close to you. Let these words of Jesus lead you into a few moments of prayer. Write out your prayer:

> *Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.*
>
> *May the kingdom of heaven come.*
>
> *May your will be done in my life and in my world today...*

ACTIVATE

Jesus is inviting you to follow him on mission—to know God, grow in freedom, discover purpose, and go make a difference! What's a simple step you can take to activate the way of Jesus in your life today?

DAY
04

READ

Take a breath. Turn your heart toward God. Consider these words of Jesus from the Sermon on the Mount:

> *You have heard that our ancestors were told,*
>
> *"You must not murder. If you commit murder,*
> *you are subject to judgment."*
>
> *But I say, if you are even angry with someone,*
> *you are subject to judgment!*
>
> *If you call someone an idiot,*
>
> *you are in danger of being brought before the court.*
>
> *And if you curse someone, you are in danger of the fires of hell.*
>
> *So if you are presenting a sacrifice at the altar in the Temple*
>
> *and you suddenly remember that someone has something against you,*
>
> *leave your sacrifice there at the altar. Go and be reconciled*
> *to that person.*
>
> *Then come and offer your sacrifice to God.*
>
> *When you are on the way to court with your adversary,*
>
> *settle your differences quickly.*
>
> *Otherwise, your accuser may hand you over to the judge,*
>
> *who will hand you over to an officer, and you will be*
> *thrown into prison.*
>
> *And if that happens, you surely won't be free again*
>
> *until you have paid the last penny.*
>
> MATTHEW 5:21-26 NLT

MEDITATE

Jot down your first thoughts and questions below. Read the passage again a second and third time. Read slowly. What is Jesus doing with the rules? What is the way of Jesus when it comes to forgiveness?

PRAY

Come close to God. He'll come close to you. Let these words of Jesus lead you into a few moments of prayer. Write out your prayer:

> *Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.*
>
> *Forgive me of my sins.*
>
> *I forgive those I don't want to forgive...*

ACTIVATE

Jesus is inviting you to follow him on mission—to know God, grow in freedom, discover purpose, and go make a difference! What's a simple step you can take to activate the way of Jesus in your life today?

DAY
05

READ

Take a breath. Turn your heart toward God. Consider these words of Jesus from the Sermon on the Mount:

> *You have heard the commandment that says,*
>
> *"You must not commit adultery."*
>
> *But I say, anyone who even looks at a woman with lust*
>
> *has already committed adultery with her in his heart.*
>
> *So if your eye—even your good eye—causes you to lust,*
>
> *gouge it out and throw it away.*
>
> *It is better for you to lose one part of your body*
>
> *than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.*
>
> *And if your hand—even your stronger hand—causes you to sin,*
>
> *cut it off and throw it away.*
>
> *It is better for you to lose one part of your body*
>
> *than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.*
>
> MATTHEW 5:27-30 NLT

MEDITATE

Jot down your first thoughts and questions below. Read the passage again a second and third time. Is Jesus suggesting self-mutilation, or is he using hyperbole to teach a healthy posture toward sin?

PRAY

Come close to God. He'll come close to you. Let these words of Jesus lead you into a few moments of prayer. Write out your prayer:

> *Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.*
>
> *Lead me away from temptation, today.*
>
> *Deliver me from taking good and evil into my own hands...*

ACTIVATE

Jesus is inviting you to follow him on mission—to know God, grow in freedom, discover purpose, and go make a difference! What's a simple step you can take to activate the way of Jesus in your life today?

DAY
06

READ

Take a breath. Turn your heart toward God. Consider these words of Jesus from the Sermon on the Mount:

> *You have heard the law that says,*
>
> *"A man can divorce his wife*
>
> *by merely giving her a written notice of divorce."*
>
> *But I say that a man who divorces his wife,*
>
> *unless she has been unfaithful,*
>
> *causes her to commit adultery.*
>
> *And anyone who marries a divorced woman*
>
> *also commits adultery.*
>
> MATTHEW 5:31-32 NLT

MEDITATE

Jot down your first thoughts and questions below. Read the passage again a second and third time. Distorted interpretations of Jewish divorce law made it easy to take advantage of women in the first century. What do these verses tell you about standing up for the weak and marginalized?

PRAY

Come close to God. He'll come close to you. Let these words of Jesus lead you into a few moments of prayer. Write out your prayer:

> *Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.*
>
> *Empower me to love my neighbor well.*
>
> *I pray for the weak and marginalized...*

ACTIVATE

Jesus is inviting you to follow him on mission—to know God, grow in freedom, discover purpose, and go make a difference! What's a simple step you can take to activate the way of Jesus in your life today?

DAY
07

READ

Take a breath. Turn your heart toward God. Consider these words of Jesus from the Sermon on the Mount:

> *You have also heard that our ancestors were told,*
>
> *"You must not break your vows;*
>
> *you must carry out the vows you make to the Lord."*
>
> *But I say, do not make any vows!*
>
> *Do not say, "By heaven!"*
>
> *because heaven is God's throne.*
>
> *And do not say, "By the earth!"*
>
> *because the earth is his footstool.*
>
> *And do not say, "By Jerusalem!"*
>
> *for Jerusalem is the city of the great King.*
>
> *Do not even say, "By my head!"*
>
> *for you can't turn one hair white or black.*
>
> *Just say a simple, "Yes, I will,"*
>
> *or "No, I won't."*
>
> *Anything beyond this is from the evil one.*
>
> MATTHEW 5:33-37 NLT

MEDITATE

Jot down your first thoughts and questions below. Read the passage again. From whom does Jesus say empty and broken promises come? Are you overcommitted right now? Is that not the same as an empty promise? What current commitments have you made that aren't aligned with the way of Jesus?

PRAY

Come close to God. He'll come close to you. Let these words of Jesus lead you into a few moments of prayer. Write out your prayer:

> *Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.*
>
> *May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable.*
>
> *I commit my ways to you...*

ACTIVATE

Jesus is inviting you to follow him on mission—to know God, grow in freedom, discover purpose, and go make a difference! What's a simple step you can take to activate the way of Jesus in your life today?

DAY
08

READ

Take a breath. Turn your heart toward God. Consider these words of Jesus from the Sermon on the Mount:

> *You have heard the law that says*
>
> *the punishment must match the injury:*
>
> *"An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth."*
>
> *But I say, do not resist an evil person!*
>
> *If someone slaps you on the right cheek,*
>
> *offer the other cheek also.*
>
> *If you are sued in court and your shirt is taken from you,*
>
> *give your coat, too.*
>
> *If a soldier demands that you carry his gear for a mile,*
>
> *carry it two miles.*
>
> *Give to those who ask,*
>
> *and don't turn away from those who want to borrow.*
>
> MATTHEW 5:38-42 NLT

MEDITATE

Jot down your first thoughts and questions below. Right now you live in arguably the most litigious, guilt-justice-minded culture of all time. Most people in our world would laugh at the idea of actually doing what Jesus is suggesting. Jesus does not want you to stay in an abusive relationship, but what would happen if people in your life noticed you giving up your "rights" to love this way?

PRAY

Come close to God. He'll come close to you. Let these words of Jesus lead you into a few moments of prayer. Write out your prayer:

> *Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.*
>
> *Help me to love those who have hurt me,*
>
> *I pray for those who seem to mistreat me, talk down to me, ignore me, insult me, and actively pursue my harm...*

ACTIVATE

Jesus is inviting you to follow him on mission—to know God, grow in freedom, discover purpose, and go make a difference! What's a simple step you can take to activate the way of Jesus in your life today?

DAY
09

READ

Take a breath. Turn your heart toward God. Consider these words of Jesus from the Sermon on the Mount:

> *You have heard the law that says,*
>
> *"Love your neighbor and hate your enemy."*
>
> *But I say, love your enemies!*
>
> *Pray for those who persecute you!*
>
> *In that way, you will be acting as true children of your Father in heaven.*
>
> *For he gives his sunlight to both the evil and the good,*
>
> *and he sends rain on the just and the unjust alike.*
>
> *If you love only those who love you,*
>
> *what reward is there for that?*
>
> *Even corrupt tax collectors do that much.*
>
> *If you are kind only to your friends,*
>
> *how are you different from anyone else?*
>
> *Even pagans do that.*
>
> *But you are to be perfect,*
>
> *even as your Father in heaven is perfect.*
>
> MATTHEW 5:43-48 NLT

MEDITATE

Jot down your first thoughts and questions below. Read the passage again a second and third time. Enemy love—this may be the most remarkable idea in the way of Jesus. How is this love like Jesus' love? What makes this impossible love possible?

PRAY

Come close to God. He'll come close to you. Let these words of Jesus lead you into a few moments of prayer. Write out your prayer:

> *Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.*
>
> *You loved me and rescued me when I was your enemy.*
>
> *Empower me with that impossible love for the people who I'm at odds with today...*

ACTIVATE

Jesus is inviting you to follow him on mission—to know God, grow in freedom, discover purpose, and go make a difference! What's a simple step you can take to activate the way of Jesus in your life today?

DAY
10

READ

Take a breath. Turn your heart toward God. Consider these words of Jesus from the Sermon on the Mount:

> *Watch out!*
>
> *Don't do your good deeds publicly,*
>
> *to be admired by others,*
>
> *for you will lose the reward from your Father in heaven.*
>
> *When you give to someone in need,*
>
> *don't do as the hypocrites do*
>
> *blowing trumpets in the synagogues and streets*
>
> *to call attention to their acts of charity!*
>
> *I tell you the truth,*
>
> *they have received all the reward they will ever get.*
>
> *But when you give to someone in need,*
>
> *don't let your left hand know what your right hand is doing.*
>
> *Give your gifts in private,*
>
> *and your Father,*
>
> *who sees everything,*
>
> *will reward you.*
>
> MATTHEW 6:1-4 NLT

MEDITATE

Jot down your first thoughts and questions below. Read the passage again. Is it possible to do the right thing for the wrong reasons? Why is private generosity the way of Jesus?

PRAY

Come close to God. He'll come close to you. Let these words of Jesus lead you into a few moments of prayer. Write out your prayer:

> *Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.*
>
> *Bless the work of my hands, work that I may have to give.*
>
> *Grant me a generous eye to see people in need...*

ACTIVATE

Jesus is inviting you to follow him on mission—to know God, grow in freedom, discover purpose, and go make a difference! What's a simple step you can take to activate the way of Jesus in your life today?

DAY
11

READ

Take a breath. Turn your heart toward God. Consider these words of Jesus from the Sermon on the Mount:

> *When you pray, don't be like the hypocrites*
>
> *who love to pray publicly on street corners*
>
> *and in the synagogues where everyone can see them.*
>
> *I tell you the truth, that is all the reward they will ever get.*
>
> *But when you pray, go away by yourself,*
>
> *shut the door behind you, and pray to your Father in private.*
>
> *Then your Father, who sees everything, will reward you.*
>
> *When you pray, don't babble on and on as the Gentiles do.*
>
> *They think their prayers are answered merely by repeating their words again and again.*
>
> *Don't be like them, for your Father knows exactly what you need even before you ask him!*
>
> *Pray like this: Our Father in heaven, may your name be kept holy.*
>
> *May your kingdom come soon.*
>
> *May your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.*
>
> *Give us today the food we need,*
>
> *and forgive us our sins, as we have forgiven those who sin against us.*
>
> *And don't let us yield to temptation, but rescue us from the evil one.*
>
> *If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you.*
>
> *But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins.*
>
> MATTHEW 6:5-15 NLT

MEDITATE

Jot down your first thoughts and questions below. Read the passage again. Does Jesus use reward to motivate his disciples—why or why not? What does the way Jesus tells us to pray say about the character of God? Why do you think forgiveness is a recurring theme in Jesus' manifesto?

PRAY

Come close to God. He'll come close to you. Let these words of Jesus lead you into a few moments of prayer. Write out your prayer:

> *Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. May your kingdom come soon.*
>
> *May your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.*
>
> *Give us everything we need today.*
>
> *Forgive me of my sins; I forgive all who sin against me.*
>
> *Don't let me yield to temptation. Rescue me from the evil one...*

ACTIVATE

Jesus is inviting you to follow him on mission—to know God, grow in freedom, discover purpose, and go make a difference! What's a simple step you can take to activate the way of Jesus in your life today?

DAY
12

READ

Take a breath. Turn your heart toward God. Consider these words of Jesus from the Sermon on the Mount:

> *And when you fast,*
>
> *don't make it obvious, as the hypocrites do,*
>
> *for they try to look miserable and disheveled*
>
> *so people will admire them for their fasting.*
>
> *I tell you the truth, that is the only reward they will ever get.*
>
> *But when you fast,*
>
> *comb your hair and wash your face.*
>
> *Then no one will notice that you are fasting,*
>
> *except your Father, who knows what you do in private.*
>
> *And your Father,*
>
> *who sees everything,*
>
> *will reward you.*
>
> MATTHEW 6:16-18 NLT

MEDITATE

Jot down your first thoughts and questions below. Read the passage again. Read slowly. What method does Jesus recommend for fasting? What motivation does he give? What correlation do you see between intimacy with God in your private life and the potential impact on your world?

PRAY

Come close to God. He'll come close to you. Let these words of Jesus lead you into a few moments of prayer. Write out your prayer:

> *Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.*
> *Your kingdom come; your will be done.*
>
> *Today I seek those things which are above,*
> *where Christ is, not temporal things.*
>
> *For I died, yet you raised me to life, an abundant life hidden with Christ...*

ACTIVATE

Jesus is inviting you to follow him on mission—to know God, grow in freedom, discover purpose, and go make a difference! What's a simple step you can take to activate the way of Jesus in your life today?

DAY
13

READ

Take a breath. Turn your heart toward God. Consider these words of Jesus from the Sermon on the Mount:

> *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.*
>
> *Your eye is like a lamp that provides light for your body. When your eye is healthy, your whole body is filled with light.*
>
> *But when your eye is unhealthy, your whole body is filled with darkness. And if the light you think you have is actually darkness, how deep that darkness is!*
>
> *No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other.*
>
> *You cannot serve God and be enslaved to money.*
>
> *That is why I tell you not to worry about everyday life—whether you have enough food and drink, or enough clothes to wear.*
>
> *Isn't life more than food, and your body more than clothing?*
>
> *Look at the birds. They don't plant or harvest or store food in barns, for your heavenly Father feeds them. And aren't you far more valuable to him than they are? Can all your worries add a single moment to your life?*
>
> *So don't worry about these things, saying, "What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?" These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father already knows all your needs.*
>
> *Seek the kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.*
>
> *So don't worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its own worries. Today's trouble is enough for today.*
>
> MATTHEW 6:19-34 NLT

MEDITATE

Jot down your first thoughts and questions below. Read the passage again. Read slowly. What does this passage tell you about your needs? Desires? Worries? Anxieties?

PRAY

Come close to God. He'll come close to you. Let these words of Jesus lead you into a few moments of prayer. Write out your prayer:

> *Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.*
> *Your kingdom come; your will be done.*
>
> *I don't want to be anxious about anything. I lose my faith in the safety of my things.*
>
> *I trust you. With earnest prayer and a grateful heart, I make these bold requests...*

ACTIVATE

Jesus is inviting you to follow him on mission—to know God, grow in freedom, discover purpose, and go make a difference! What's a simple step you can take to activate the way of Jesus in your life today?

DAY
14

READ

Take a breath. Turn your heart toward God. Consider these words of Jesus from the Sermon on the Mount:

> *Do not judge others, and you will not be judged.*
>
> *For you will be treated as you treat others.*
>
> *The standard you use in judging is the standard by which you will be judged.*
>
> *And why worry about a speck in your friend's eye when you have a log in your own?*
>
> *How can you think of saying to your friend,*
>
> *"Let me help you get rid of that speck in your eye,"*
>
> *when you can't see past the log in your own eye?*
>
> *Hypocrite! First get rid of the log in your own eye;*
>
> *then you will see well enough to deal with the speck in your friend's eye.*
>
> *Don't waste what is holy on people who are unholy.*
>
> *Don't throw your pearls to pigs!*
>
> *They will trample the pearls,*
>
> *then turn and attack you.*
>
> MATTHEW 7:1-6 NLT

MEDITATE

Jot down your first thoughts and questions below. Read the passage again. Why does Jesus care so much about your relationships with people most unlike you? How do your judgmental thoughts impact you? Are you taking your arguments to argumentative (unholy) people?

PRAY

Come close to God. He'll come close to you. Let these words of Jesus lead you into a few moments of prayer. Write out your prayer:

> *Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.*
>
> *Create in me a clean heart. Renew a right spirit in me.*
>
> *I pray for the people I don't understand. Help me see them as you see them...*

ACTIVATE

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DAY
15

READ

Take a breath. Turn your heart toward God. Consider these words of Jesus from the Sermon on the Mount:

> *Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for.*
>
> *Keep on seeking, and you will find.*
>
> *Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you.*
>
> *For everyone who asks, receives.*
>
> *Everyone who seeks, finds.*
>
> *And to everyone who knocks,*
>
> *the door will be opened.*
>
> *You parents—if your children ask for a loaf of bread,*
>
> *do you give them a stone instead?*
>
> *Or if they ask for a fish, do you give them a snake?*
>
> *Of course not!*
>
> *So if you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children,*
>
> *how much more will your heavenly Father*
>
> *give good gifts to those who ask him.*
>
> MATTHEW 7:7-11 NLT

MEDITATE

Jot down your first thoughts and questions below. Read the passage again. What prayers have you given up on? What good things have you yet to even ask for? What's not happening in your world because you are not asking, seeking, and knocking?

PRAY

Come close to God. He'll come close to you. Let these words of Jesus lead you into a few moments of prayer. Write out your prayer:

> *Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come; your will be done through me.*
>
> *For you, O God, are my sun and shield; you give grace and glory.*
>
> *No good thing will you withhold from me and my family. I ask for your help with these things today...*

ACTIVATE

Jesus is inviting you to follow him on mission—to know God, grow in freedom, discover purpose, and go make a difference! What's a simple step you can take to activate the way of Jesus in your life today?

DAY
16

READ

Take a breath. Turn your heart toward God. Consider these words of Jesus from the Sermon on the Mount:

> *Do to others*
>
> *whatever you*
>
> *would like them*
>
> *to do to you.*
>
> *This is the essence*
>
> *of all that is taught*
>
> *in the law and the prophets.*
>
> MATTHEW 7:12 NLT

MEDITATE

Jot down your first thoughts and questions below. Read the passage again. Read slowly. What does it say about Jesus that he could sum up the entire Hebrew scripture in one phrase? What would happen to our world if we all lived this way? Husbands? Wives? Parents? Friends? Bosses? Employees?

PRAY

Come close to God. He'll come close to you. Let these words of Jesus lead you into a few moments of prayer. Write out your prayer:

> *Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. This is love—not that I loved you,*
>
> *but that you first loved me and sent your son as a sacrifice for my sins.*
>
> *Help me love the people in my life with that same sacrificial love today...*

ACTIVATE

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DAY
17

READ

Take a breath. Turn your heart toward God. Consider these words of Jesus from the Sermon on the Mount:

> *Enter through the narrow gate.*
>
> *For wide is the gate*
>
> *and broad is the road*
>
> *that leads to destruction,*
>
> *and many enter through it.*
>
> *But small is the gate*
>
> *and narrow the road*
>
> *that leads to life,*
>
> *and only a few find it.*
>
> MATTHEW 7:13-14 NIV

MEDITATE

Jot down your first thoughts and questions below. Read the passage again. Read slowly. How does Jesus describe the way of culture? What's the destination of people who choose to follow Jesus? The way of Jesus is not hard—but it is radically different than what most people think. How?

PRAY

Come close to God. He'll come close to you. Let these words of Jesus lead you into a few moments of prayer. Write out your prayer:

> *Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.*
>
> *Thank you for calling me out of darkness into your light.*
>
> *Your word is a lamp to my feet; light my path today...*

ACTIVATE

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DAY
18

READ

Take a breath. Turn your heart toward God. Consider these words of Jesus from the Sermon on the Mount:

> *Beware of false prophets who come disguised as harmless sheep*
>
> *but are really vicious wolves.*
>
> *You can identify them by their fruit,*
>
> *that is, by the way they act.*
>
> *Can you pick grapes from thornbushes,*
>
> *or figs from thistles?*
>
> *A good tree produces good fruit,*
>
> *and a bad tree produces bad fruit.*
>
> *A good tree can't produce bad fruit,*
>
> *and a bad tree can't produce good fruit.*
>
> *So every tree that does not produce good fruit*
>
> *is chopped down and thrown into the fire.*
>
> *Yes, just as you can identify a tree by its fruit,*
>
> *so you can identify people by their actions.*
>
> MATTHEW 7:15-20 NLT

MEDITATE

Jot down your first thoughts and questions below. Read the passage again, circle repeated words and ideas. What does culture or your family of origin say makes someone good? What does Jesus say? Are there influences in your life that you need to kindly and humbly "unfollow"?

PRAY

Come close to God. He'll come close to you. Let these words of Jesus lead you into a few moments of prayer. Write out your prayer:

> *Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.*
>
> *Your thoughts are higher than my thoughts.*
> *Your ways are higher than my ways.*
>
> *Turn my eyes from worthless pursuits. Give me wisdom, discernment, and understanding today...*

ACTIVATE

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DAY
19

READ

Take a breath. Turn your heart toward God. Consider these words of Jesus from the Sermon on the Mount:

> *Not everyone who calls out to me, "Lord! Lord!" will enter the kingdom of heaven.*
>
> *Only those who actually do the will of my Father in heaven will enter.*
>
> *On judgment day many will say to me, "Lord! Lord!*
>
> *We prophesied in your name*
>
> *and cast out demons in your name*
>
> *and performed many miracles in your name."*
>
> *But I will reply, "I never knew you.*
>
> *Get away from me, you who break God's laws."*
>
> MATTHEW 7:21-23 NLT

MEDITATE

Jot down your first thoughts and questions below. Read the passage again multiple times. Pause. Let it sink in. This may be the most terrifying idea in scripture. Consider who is saying it. Is the way of Jesus to condemn you or to invite you to the kingdom? If this were an invitation, how do you say yes?

PRAY

Come close to God. He'll come close to you. Let these words of Jesus lead you into a few moments of prayer. Write out your prayer:

> *Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.*
>
> *Not my will but the will of the Father be done on earth as it is in heaven.*
>
> *Help me walk worthy of the calling. Incline my heart to you and not toward selfish gain. I repent...*

ACTIVATE

Jesus is inviting you to follow him on mission—to know God, grow in freedom, discover purpose, and go make a difference! What's a simple step you can take to activate the way of Jesus in your life today?

DAY
20

READ

Take a breath. Turn your heart toward God. Consider these words of Jesus from the Sermon on the Mount:

> *Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise,*
>
> *like a person who builds a house on solid rock.*
>
> *Though the rain comes in torrents*
>
> *and the floodwaters rise*
>
> *and the winds beat against that house,*
>
> *it won't collapse*
>
> *because it is built on bedrock.*
>
> *But anyone who hears my teaching and doesn't obey it is foolish,*
>
> *like a person who builds a house on sand.*
>
> *When the rains and floods come*
>
> *and the winds beat against that house,*
>
> *it will collapse with a mighty crash.*
>
> MATTHEW 7:24-27 NLT

MEDITATE

Jot down your first thoughts and questions below. Read it again slowly a second and third time. What makes someone wise in the way of Jesus? What's the promise for hearer-doers involved on mission? What's the inevitable reality for the hearers-only sitting on the sidelines?

PRAY

Come close to God. He'll come close to you. Let these words of Jesus lead you into a few moments of prayer. Write out your prayer:

> *Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.*
>
> *Behold the servant of the Lord, be it unto me according to your word.*
>
> *Wherever you lead me, I will follow. Whatever you tell me to do, big or small, I will do...*

ACTIVATE

Jesus is inviting you to follow him on mission—to know God, grow in freedom, discover purpose, and go make a difference! What's a simple step you can take to activate the way of Jesus in your life today?

DAY
21

READ

Take a breath. Turn your heart toward God. Consider these words of Jesus from the Sermon on the Mount:

> *"When Jesus had finished*
>
> *saying these things,*
>
> *the crowds were amazed*
>
> *at his teaching,*
>
> *for he taught*
>
> *with real authority—*
>
> *quite unlike their teachers*
>
> *of religious law."*
>
> MATTHEW 7:28-29 NLT

MEDITATE

Jot down your first thoughts and questions below. Do you notice a particular literary shape? Mark each line with a letter in this pattern: a, b, c, d, d, c, b, a. This is a device called a chiasm, designed to emphasize what's at the center. See how each line correlates with its match? What's the heart of the way of Jesus?

PRAY

Come close to God. He'll come close to you. Let these words of Jesus lead you into a few moments of prayer. Write out your prayer:

> *Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.*
>
> *Behold the servant of the Lord, be it unto me according to your word.*
>
> *Wherever you lead me, I will follow. Whatever you say, I will do...*

ACTIVATE

Jesus is inviting you to follow him on mission—to know God, grow in freedom, discover purpose, and go make a difference! What's a simple step you can take to activate the way of Jesus in your life today?

REFLECT

Take a moment to reflect on these last 21 days. What are the biggest things you've learned about yourself and the way of Jesus—knowing God, growing in freedom, discovering purpose, and making a difference?

WHAT NOW?

Do you know how loved you are? Do you know the abundant resources available to you for life on mission? What's your next move in following Jesus? Here are some easy steps to consider:

- ☐ Join or lead a Small Group
- ☐ Sign up for a bible study
- ☐ Attend Next Move
- ☐ Apply for a mission trip
- ☐ Pray for a friend or lost loved one
- ☐ Serve on a Go Team
- ☐ Become a percentage giver
- ☐ Jump in on an outreach

Go to churchonthemove.com to find out more about next step opportunities.

A YEAR ON MISSION

What is the mission of God? We began to ask ourselves that question on Vision Weekend 2019 to kick off our 2019/2020 ministry season. Here's what we found: God has been on a mission from page one of the Bible to partner with people to be culture-building, disciple makers throughout the whole earth. We learned that God will accomplish his mission with or without us, but in his grace, God has invited us to partner with him on mission. Understanding this invitation changes everything. We can't help but align our time, energy, and resources when we see God's mission at work to seek and save the lost.

So we made it our personal challenge as a church family: one year on mission. John 20:21 became our theme verse for this ministry season: Jesus said, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you." We believe that means wherever we find ourselves in life, we're not there on accident. We're there on mission. We're sent!

What does this mean practically? It means we want to be a church that makes disciples. We want to be a church that opens the door for the next generation. We want to be a church that is filled with compassion. And we want to be a church that reaches the whole city. Want to learn more? Listen to Missio Dei | Vision Weekend on the Church on the Move podcast.