



WONDERSTRUCK: 40 DAYS OF PRAYER AND FASTING
awaken to the nearness of God *
Daily Devotional Guide
Week 2

“Prayer is reaching out after the unseen; fasting is letting go of all that is seen and temporal. Fasting helps express, deepen, confirm the resolution that we are ready to sacrifice anything, even ourselves to attain what we seek for the kingdom of God.”

— Andrew Murray

* Adapted from *Wonderstruck: Awaken to the Nearness of God*, Margaret Feinberg. Worthy Publishing Company: Brentwood, 2012



Tips for Your Daily Bible Readings

The first strategy for spiritual growth and maturity is a careful reading of God's Word. Luke 10 records an interaction between Jesus and a religious leader. The leader was actually examining Jesus by asking a trick question. Jesus' wise and discerning answer was: "*What is written in the law?*" He asked him. "*How do you read it?*"

Jesus' second question is a reminder that we should read God's Word for more than knowledge; we need to read God's Word for personal application and obedience. *How* we read God's Word either points us in a godly direction or in no direction at all.

You can follow these steps to moving your life in a godly direction:

First, pray that the Holy Spirit will help you focus on God's Word and give you insight to discover it's truth for your life.

Read & Reflect. Read the passage out loud and listen to the rhythm of the words and for the Voice of God speaking to you. Read the passage again, carefully noting the words and phrases that seem significant to you and bring the Word to light in your heart and mind. Sit still and meditate on the words you read. Write your reflections on those words, noting ideas, key words or phrases, etc. in your journal.

Explore & Examine. Explore the meaning of the words in light of the culture, the biblical context, the events and/or people in the story, etc. Use commentaries and dictionaries to explore key words and phrases and to gain more understanding of the passage. Search cross-references. Examine your life in comparison or contrast to the biblical meaning, the people in the story, the biblical truths in the text. What is the significance of this Word from God for your life? Begin thinking about how your life can be shaped by God's Word.

Apply & Adapt. Apply the significance of the passage to your life. What needs to change? What needs to be strengthened? What needs to be left behind? What truths or principles do you need to adapt to your understanding of God? to the way you live your life? What difference will this Word from God make in your life?

Decide & Do. Decide to obey God's Word. What steps will you take to adjust your heart to God's message? What will you do in response to God's Word? Identify steps of obedience that can be measured for accountability.



Week Two: Day 8

SCRIPTURE READING: 1 JOHN 3:16-20

READ & REFLECT

Words & Phrases

Reflections

EXPLORE & EXAMINE

What is the meaning of the text?

How does my life compare/contrast?

APPLY & ADAPT

What is significant for my life? What needs changed or strengthened? What truths or principles do I need to adapt? What difference will this Word from God make in my life?

DECIDE & DO

My response to God's Word.

Steps of obedience I will take.

EXPERIENCE WONDER

In choosing to be fully present with someone, we can experience many wonders. Spend a few moments reflecting on your schedule for the day. Who could you spend a half-hour or hour with and be fully present, fully yourself? Maybe you have a coworker you could invite to lunch. Or one of your children whom you haven't been able to give full attention to lately. Find a place and a time—whether it's in your dining room or living room or a park or coffee shop—where you can be fully yourself and warm your soul in the glow of both knowing and being known.



Week Two: Day 8

SCRIPTURE READING: GENESIS 15:1-6

READ & REFLECT

Words & Phrases

Reflections

EXPLORE & EXAMINE

What is the meaning of the text?

How does my life compare/contrast?

APPLY & ADAPT

What is significant for my life? What needs changed or strengthened? What truths or principles do I need to adapt? What difference will this Word from God make in my life?

DECIDE & DO

My response to God's Word.

Steps of obedience I will take.

EXPERIENCE WONDER

God's sanctuary in the sky awaits us all. Take fifteen minutes to look, really look, at all the lights in the sky—the disc that is the moon, the Milky Way, the stars, even the planes that shoot across night's canopy. Even if there's light pollution, take note of the shadows and the textures above. As you observe the lights—those created by God and others crafted by humankind—reflect on the promise God made to Abraham thousands of years ago that his descendants would be more numerous than all the stars in the sky (Genesis 15: 5). Consider God's faithfulness in your own life and journey.



Week Two: Day 10

SCRIPTURE READING: PSALM 46

READ & REFLECT

Words & Phrases

Reflections

EXPLORE & EXAMINE

What is the meaning of the text?

How does my life compare/contrast?

APPLY & ADAPT

What is significant for my life? What needs changed or strengthened? What truths or principles do I need to adapt? What difference will this Word from God make in my life?

DECIDE & DO

My response to God's Word.

Steps of obedience I will take.

EXPERIENCE WONDER

Wonders await in the stillness. Depending on the time of year, prepare a cup of hot peppermint tea or pour a glass of sweet tea. Fill a mug with dark hot chocolate and marshmallows or whatever your favorite beverage may be. Then find a quiet room, a comfortable chair, and sit still for twenty minutes. Your only movement should be nestling into the chair and occasionally sipping your beverage. Allow yourself to be fully present in the moment—aware of your hands, your feet, your spine, every aspect of your body's position. In this place of pausing, talk to God. Tell him what's really on your heart and mind. Share with him things you've been afraid to say aloud. Give yourself wholly and fully to God in prayer and experience the wonder.

(<https://ibcmanila.org/share-your-wonder>)



Week Two: Day 11

SCRIPTURE READING: EPHESIANS 3:14-21

READ & REFLECT

Words & Phrases

Reflections

EXPLORE & EXAMINE

What is the meaning of the text?

How does my life compare/contrast?

APPLY & ADAPT

What is significant for my life? What needs changed or strengthened? What truths or principles do I need to adapt? What difference will this Word from God make in my life?

DECIDE & DO

My response to God's Word.

Steps of obedience I will take.

EXPERIENCE WONDER

Some of God's greatest wonders await us when we allow ourselves to dream. Spend twenty minutes today creating a list of things you'd like to see God do in your life and the lives of those around you. Write down things you'd do, places you'd visit, and situations you'd encounter if anything were possible. Ask God to lift the lid off your prayer life and begin believing him for things you previously thought impossible. Walk boldly in the wonder of divine expectation.



Week Two: Day 12

SCRIPTURE READING: PROVERBS 15:6-9

READ & REFLECT

Words & Phrases

Reflections

EXPLORE & EXAMINE

What is the meaning of the text?

How does my life compare/contrast?

APPLY & ADAPT

What is significant for my life? What needs changed or strengthened? What truths or principles do I need to adapt? What difference will this Word from God make in my life?

DECIDE & DO

My response to God's Word.

Steps of obedience I will take.

EXPERIENCE WONDER

Wonder awaits us in our prayer lives. Set aside twenty minutes today to talk to God, but instead of conversing with God as you normally do, consider limiting prayers to three words each. Take note of the challenges and joys you experience. Reflect on what it means to be intentional with each word as you lift your praises and petitions to God and rediscover the wonder of prayer.

(<https://ibcmanila.org/share-your-wonder>)



Week Two: Day 13

SCRIPTURE READING: PSALM 100

READ & REFLECT

Words & Phrases

Reflections

EXPLORE & EXAMINE

What is the meaning of the text?

How does my life compare/contrast?

APPLY & ADAPT

What is significant for my life? What needs changed or strengthened? What truths or principles do I need to adapt? What difference will this Word from God make in my life?

DECIDE & DO

My response to God's Word.

Steps of obedience I will take.

EXPERIENCE WONDER

Gratitude provides the opportunity to celebrate the breadth and depth of God's wonder. Take twenty minutes today to write a letter to God—maybe even a love letter. Express your affections to God. Thank him for all that he's done for you and all that he has yet to do. Thank him for those big and little and long forgotten things and allow your soul to dance in the wonders of gratitude.



Week Two: Day 14

SCRIPTURE READING: JOHN 10:6-10

READ & REFLECT

Words & Phrases

Reflections

EXPLORE & EXAMINE

What is the meaning of the text?

How does my life compare/contrast?

APPLY & ADAPT

What is significant for my life? What needs changed or strengthened? What truths or principles do I need to adapt? What difference will this Word from God make in my life?

DECIDE & DO

My response to God's Word.

Steps of obedience I will take.

EXPERIENCE WONDER

Life is one of God's greatest wonders. Much of your life is spent giving, serving, and working. But today the challenge is to do something that makes you—just you—feel rejuvenated, refreshed, and brings you joy. A high-energy sports activity. A meal at your favorite bistro. An hour of knitting or enjoying your favorite craft. A coffee date with a friend. A great novel. Spend at least thirty minutes—but preferably one hour—doing something today that makes you grateful to be alive and rediscover the abundant life that awaits you each and every day.



Prayer & Reflections

Use these pages to record prayer requests, answers to prayers, and what you hear God saying to you as you fast and pray, awoken to His nearness, and are struck with His wonder.





