

## OUR CHURCH EXISTS FOR GOD

Everything we do comes from our love for God the Father, our obedience to Jesus, and our desire for the fullness of the Holy Spirit.

## OUR CHURCH EXISTS FOR YOU

We are committed to doing whatever we can to equip, encourage and empower you to *Follow* Jesus and *Share* your life as you fulfil your God given and unique calling as a *Blessing* in our city.

## OUR CHURCH EXISTS FOR HOBART

We are committed to following Jesus' leadership, and partnering with God's people in our city, in order to reach a point where every person, every street, and every sphere of society, is being influenced by people with a vision of the Kingdom of God.

*As this happens Hobart will increasingly be a beacon of hope for the rest of Tasmania, Australia and for the world.*

**FOLLOW** *Jesus*

**SHARE** *Life*

**BLESS** *Tasmania*

 **CITYWIDE**  
BAPTIST CHURCH

# FAST + PRAY



7 DAY READING PLAN

 **CITYWIDE** BAPTIST CHURCH

“Even now,” declares the Lord,  
“return to me with all your heart,  
with fasting and weeping and  
mourning.”

Joel 2:12



*Save the Date*

**29 SEPTEMBER  
TO  
1 OCTOBER 2023**

**CITYWIDE  
FAMILY CAMP  
POATINA**

# SATURDAY

## Set Yourself Apart

We've spent the week focussing on drawing closer to God and putting Him first in our lives. Let's consecrate ourselves to him afresh, setting ourselves apart for his specific purpose on our lives.

Deut 14:2 says **we have been set apart as Holy**. This means that our thoughts, words and lifestyles should conform to what the word of God says. Our lives need to demonstrate righteous living, with a standard of purity that distinguishes us from the rest of the world.

Ask Jesus if there are any thoughts or behaviours that we need to put aside or change so that we can be holy, just as God is holy. Make a decision to consecrate those areas to God today.

John 15:16 **We have been chosen**. God has chosen us to be his children. We are not just one among the crowd, God has a specific plan for us to fulfil. Commit yourself to be used by God in the unique purpose he has destined for your life. This means saying 'no' to some things that the world may offer you so you can say 'yes' to what God wants you to do.

**We are his special treasure**. When we live lives of holiness and make decisions that align ourselves with his will, we find our true worth as his special treasure. We are valuable to him and useful for the Kingdom because God can use us to accomplish his purposes on the earth. Choose to set yourself apart today.

Pray for your community (Morningson/Warrane or Lenah Valley). Return to the area you have established as a place of his presence – pray – observe the surroundings – put yourself in the shoes of the people who live there – declare the heavens open over them – claim them for the Kingdom.

Exercise faith in prayer for new souls for His Kingdom. For your identified person whom God has shown you to specifically pray for this year, purposefully and sensitively maintain a relationship with them – persevere in prayer for them – remember that you are an instrument in God's hand for his Spirit's work.

Pray for people in the Citywide family who need a healing touch from Jesus this week.

*These things happen so that the power of God might be seen* – give God the honour and glory and praise in all circumstances. Maintain an expectancy in faith for complete healing and wholeness.

# SUNDAY

## Introduction

There's a sense amongst our leaders and people that we're on the cusp of God doing something special at Citywide. There's been a journey in our hearts and there is an expectation in our spirits that the Holy Spirit is preparing us for his empowerment in ministry.

So for this week of Prayer and Fasting, one of our encouragements for us all is to thirst for more of God, so that our roots will go deeper into Him, our awareness of his presence will grow stronger, and our lives reflect his Lordship and love in all areas.

### Other foci for prayer this week are:

To seek God for his leading and pathway into the communities around us in Morningson/Warrane and Lenah Valley. Ask him for his creative and unique opportunities where we can represent him relevantly and reflect his love and care into these communities.

Pray for more people to get to know Jesus. We're exercising faith for 20 this year, and as we pray be aware that we are making ourselves available for the Spirit to use us in his moving within people's minds and hearts.

Pray for those we know who are unwell and battling dis-ease in their bodies, minds, emotions and spirits.

### It takes discipline to fast and pray

It's a matter of choice – and covenanting with God to persevere in your chosen fast.

It means breaking a routine – setting aside meal times, or some other habitual time uses.

It takes a purposeful focus on Jesus – opening yourself to his voice and being obedient to the Holy Spirit's prompting.

It's our heart's desire and hunger for more of Him that will motivate and undergird our disciplines.

### Decide what and when to fast

Ask Jesus what he'd like you to fast from. Often the answer is the first thought that comes to your mind. Don't question it or wonder if there's an 'easier' way. Just decide to be obedient.

Talk to Jesus about what time slot/s he wants you to give to him.

Then schedule your week accordingly – letting your plan of prayer and fasting take precedence and reflect our desire to draw close to him.

### Find your unique way of entering into his presence

Music and worship songs is one way of creating an atmosphere to lead us into a space with Him

Reading the scriptures, or a faith inspiring book until the Spirit prompts us to pause over a point for reflection.



Observing nature and entering into the presence of God reflected in his handiwork.

Sitting quietly and using your imagination to 'see' Jesus sitting with you, open for conversation.

### Question and Answer Prayer

Rather than asking God for something, this Prayer & Fasting guide focuses more on asking God questions and listening for his answers. When we simply ask him a question, he will answer. Often something comes straight into our mind – sometimes something very unexpected – accept it as from God (more often than not it is). Don't dismiss it too quickly, or over think it or analyse it or justify it through reason – just let God develop the thought or unpack it in his time. –

Commit yourself to being obedient with what he tells you.

**LET'S  
PRAY  
TOGETHER**

### Prayer Walk

After Church Today join us for a prayer walk around the Lenah Valley and Mornington/Warrane areas



# FRIDAY

## Draw Near to God's House

In Genesis 28 we have the story of Jacob running away from his brother, Esau, whom he had deceived and he escaped in fear. It was in this anxious state that he fell asleep at Bethel and received a vision for his future. On awaking he realized he was in the house of God and had had an experience of faith and favour from God.

God's house is where his presence dwells. Bethel was not a magical place, it was the presence of God that made the difference. Today you can host the presence of God at home, school, or workplace. Pray and invite God to dwell in the place you're in - and get ready to encounter him.

We find all we need in the presence of God. At Bethel, Jacob heard God's voice, had his perspective renewed and experienced the power of God. Everything had changed because of a moment in the house of God.. We too can find all we need in his presence – draw near and place yourself in his presence, and share with other believers – that's where you can receive all you need for living life with direction and purpose and power.

Ask Jesus to show you any attitude or fear that hinders you from being in his presence.

Pray for your community (Mornington/Warrane or Lenah Valley). Take a walk or drive through an area, praying and establishing a 'House of God', a place of his presence in that location.

Exercise faith in prayer for new souls for His Kingdom. For your identified person whom God has shown you to specifically pray for this year, ask Holy Spirit to give you the right words, attitude and an overflow of his love to express to them.

Pray for people in the Citywide family who need a healing touch from Jesus this week.



# THURSDAY

## Put God First

We all know how easy it is to give up on any new resolutions we might make. And sometimes we face the same struggle trying to put God first in our lives. Bible reading or praying or worship attendance slips away, slowly life has a way of dragging us away from God and his ways. We need to continually re-assess our lives and make sure we put the first things first.

There are three truths that help us put God first in our lives. First, **we desperately need God**. He is the source of all life. He allows us to draw close to him and gives us access into his presence where we find joy, strength, peace and all that we need. We need to put God first, because without him, we are nothing.

Second, **God provides when we put him first**. Matt 6:33 says that if we seek first the Kingdom of God and his righteousness, all other things we need will be added to us. When we give our best to God, he is more than able to give us everything we need in return.

Third, **now is the best time to put God first**. Unlike new year resolutions, we don't need to wait till 1 Jan to choose to put him first in our lives. Start today with the small decisions – making time to meet with God first thing in the morning, faithfully giving your tithe to him or making decisions based on the Word of God. Watch as he blesses you for honouring and placing him first.

Ask Jesus to show you an area of your life where you are not putting him first. Make the change.

Pray for your community (Mornington/Warrane or Lenah Valley). Ask him to show you a strategy that will honour Jesus and open up opportunities for building relationships.

Exercise faith in prayer for new souls for His Kingdom. For your identified person whom God has shown you to specifically pray for this year, ask Jesus for his spirit of boldness and courage for you to speak of Jesus to them.

Pray for people in the Citywide family who need a healing touch from Jesus this week. Picture Jesus sitting with them and placing his healing hands on them for restoration and blessing.

**LET'S  
PRAY  
TOGETHER**

Online Prayer Meeting

8.00 – 9.00 pm

Scan the QR code to open  
the Zoom meeting



# MONDAY

## Get Desperate for God

Put aside other things to make time to read His Word, pray, and be in his presence. Be disciplined about not letting urgent things crowd out what is most important – an encounter with God. God promises that those who seek him will find him, so seek his face today.

Ask God to stir up a fresh hunger and thirst for a deeper encounter with him. Choose to deny our flesh through fasting and ask God to give us a renewed desire for spiritual things.

Ask Jesus to show you anything in your life that he'd like you to give up for him.

Pray for your community (Mornington/Warrane or Lenah Valley). Ask God to show you what he sees and to reveal his heart for the people there.

Exercise faith in prayer for new souls for His Kingdom. Ask Jesus to tell you who in your network he'd like you to specifically pray for, that they will 'seek and find' him this year.

Pray for people in the Citywide family who need a healing touch from Jesus this week. Praise him for those among us who have known his healing love and encouragement.

**LET'S  
PRAY  
TOGETHER**

9.30 – 10.00 am at Mornington

Join us as we pray together in the office



# TUESDAY

## Humble Yourself and Magnify God

In fasting we direct our attention to God. We choose to seek him with greater focus and commitment. We demonstrate that we desire spiritual things more than natural things, and are willing to forgo something important to us because God is more important.

Let's humble ourselves and align our hearts and motives to his.

Invite him to speak to us and move in our lives.

Ask Jesus to tell or show you how he sees you.

Pray for your community (Mornington/Warrane or Lenah Valley). Ask him to give you his heart for the people there.

Exercise faith in prayer for new souls for His Kingdom. For your identified person whom God has shown you to specifically pray for this year, ask Jesus to show you his perspective on that person's life and needs.

Pray for people in the Citywide family who need a healing touch from Jesus this week.

Ask God to show you how you can bless and encourage them.



# WEDNESDAY

## Let Go

Letting go is hard. We are more prone to hold on than to let go because of fear. But God's perfect love casts our fear. We can trust that God loves us and has the best intentions for us. He is not trying to take something from us, he wants to give us something better.

If we want to move closer to God and trust his leading in our lives, we need to learn to let go our control of it. Jesus says that if we try to hang on to our life, we will lose it. We must let go of our own plans or dreams so we can receive God's plans for us. We must let go of past hurts or memories so that God can heal us deeply. We must let go of some unhealthy relationships so that we can get into community with people who will spur us on in the things of God. When we release control of our own lives, we position ourselves for more of God. God wants to release his blessings over our lives today, so choose to put aside fear, trust God and let go of the things that hold you back.

Ask Jesus to show you what you need to let go of, in order for you to move on with him.

Pray for your community (Mornington/Warrane or Lenah Valley). Ask him to show you a pathway that you, or Citywide can take into the community.

Exercise faith in prayer for new souls for His Kingdom. For your identified person whom God has shown you to specifically pray for this year, ask Jesus for an open window of opportunity to share a faith perspective with them.

Pray for people in the Citywide family who need a healing touch from Jesus this week.

Praise God for them and for his love and presence in their lives.

### PRAYER FOR HEALING

12.30 – 1.30 pm at Lenah Valley

**LET'S  
PRAY  
TOGETHER**

### PRAYER FOR OUR CITY

7.00 pm @ Kangaroo Bluff Reserve

Fort Street Bellerive