



Guide for a Season of Prayer and Fasting
March 7-27, 2022

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to this journey of belief and conviction as the body of Christ known as Anastasia Baptist Church reengages with our Faith Campaign—**4 Generations to Come**. We began this exciting trek over two years ago when we realized the need to provide safe, up-to-date buildings to minister most effectively to preschoolers, children, teens and their families.

The Season of Prayer and Fasting begins on Sunday, March 6. On that day, students will be leading worship in the two venues on the island campus—high schoolers in the Sanctuary, and collegians in the CLC. These are a part of the rising generation from which will come tomorrow’s pastors, missionaries and church leaders. The Season will end on Sunday, March 27, when parents will have the opportunity to dedicate themselves to raising their children “in the discipline and instruction of the Lord” (Ephesians 6:4).

Between those two special days, we have the occasion to grow our faith, both as individuals and as a church. The Holy Spirit inspired the author of Hebrews to write that, “Without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him” (Hebrews 11:6). That’s what this Season of Prayer and Fasting is all about—drawing near to God, earnestly seeking his face, and striving to please him by expanding our faith.

Jesus was once asked, “Which commandment is the most important of all?” He replied:

*“The most important is,
‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.
And you shall love the Lord your God with all your **heart** and with all your **soul**
and with all your **mind** and with all your **strength**.” (Mark 12:29-30)*

Each weekday during the Season, we’ll have a short Scripture passage with which to engage. But we’re not going to merely *read* it. We’re going to be challenged to *grapple with it*, to involve our whole being—heart, soul, mind and strength—with God’s challenge. We’re going to have the opportunity to grow our faith by growing in love for God. As you read each day’s passage, love the Lord your God with your mind, heart, soul and strength.

MIND <i>Exert your mind to love God.</i>	Read the selected scriptures and think on them. Engage with God’s Word; don’t merely check off a box.
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HEART <i>Employ your heart to love God.</i>	Take the time to allow God’s Word to settle deep inside you. Meditate on it; reflect on what God is saying to you, personally, today. Ask yourself deep questions—and wrestle with the answers.
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SOUL

*Use your soul to
love God.*

Pray to be transformed by the Word you are reading and by the Spirit Who indwells believers.

STRENGTH

*Activate your
hands and feet to
love God.*

Determine to do whatever it is God is calling you to do.

Each day, we're going to pray for a specific aspect of **4 Generations to Come**. On Mondays, we'll ask God to grant *wisdom for the men and women serving as our building steering committee*. On Tuesdays, we'll pray for *favor as bids for building and finances are sought*. At midweek, we'll request *wisdom for this congregation as a decision approaches in June*. On Thursdays, our prayer will be *for the church to be united in the effort*. And as each week draws to a close, we'll petition the Lord to move his people to make *financial commitments and recommitments at the island location of Anastasia Church toward this Family Ministry Center Project*. Saturdays will be a day for *personal reflection* and Sundays we'll gather for *corporate worship as a family*.



FOCUS: Wisdom for the Building Steering Committee

If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.

James 1:5

Love the Lord your God with your...

...MIND

Exert your mind to love God.

In *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*, the author Robert Robinson speaks of God as the source from which spring all good things. Some specific blessings he mentions in the song are “streams of mercy,” God’s “redeeming love” and “precious blood,” and his help and grace.

...HEART

Employ your heart to love God.

A blessing that Robinson did not mention explicitly in the hymn is God’s wisdom. But the Lord is indeed the fount from which it flows, as James makes plain in today’s scripture passage. Meditate on how great the love of God must be for his children, that he gives good gifts “generously to all without reproach.”

...SOUL

Use your soul to love God.

Pray for our building steering committee. Ask the Lord to give those men and women wisdom as they guide us through this process.

Lord, you know the beginning from the end (Isaiah 46:9-10). You know what our committee members need to discern as they lead your church in fulfilling your call. Grant them wisdom as they face the numerous decisions that must be made. Show them your plan and help them to follow it, so that, when the project is complete, what was said of the Israelites when they finished constructing the tabernacle can be said of us as well: “as the Lord had commanded, so had they done it” (Exodus 39:43). We pray this in the power of Jesus’ name. Amen.

...STRENGTH

Activate your hands and feet to love God.

Serving on a committee can be a thankless job. Consider sending an encouraging note to the members of the building steering committee at bsc@anastasiachurch.org, letting them know that you are grateful for their service and are praying for them as they go about their task.



FOCUS: Favor throughout the bidding process

The people of Israel had also done as Moses told them, for they had asked the Egyptians for silver and gold jewelry and for clothing. And the Lord had given the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they let them have what they asked.

Exodus 12:35-36

Love the Lord your God with your...

...MIND

Exert your mind to love God.

Let the enormity of today's scripture passage sink down into your mind. The Israelites were enslaved in Egypt. God sent Moses to demand of Pharaoh that he release God's people from bondage. When Pharaoh refused, God sent a series of increasingly devastating plagues on Egypt, climaxing in the deaths of the firstborns of both people and livestock. The nation was crushed: "...there was a great cry in Egypt, for there was not a house where someone was not dead" (Exodus 12:31).

...HEART

Employ your heart to love God.

Yet, in spite of the death and destruction that surrounded the people of Egypt, *the Israelites found favor in their sight!* Reflect on how miraculous that was! In the midst of a hostile people who had previously subjugated them, even to the point of killing their male children (Exodus 1:16, 22), and after God brought shattering punishment on Egypt, the Israelites were not merely tolerated or grudgingly accepted—they were favored!

...SOUL

Use your soul to love God.

Ask the Lord for Anastasia to be favored in the sight of the many businesses and organizations with which we will deal as we work through the planning and construction of the new ministry areas.

Lord, you are the author and sustainer of the entirety of creation. From the farthest star to the smallest bird, you are sovereign over all. You hold the hearts of leaders in your hand and turn them as you will (Proverbs 21:1), so, Lord, we ask for favor in the eyes of businesses with whom we must deal as we seek financing and construction bids. We ask this not to exalt ourselves as shrewd business people, but to glorify you as the wonderful provider that you are. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

...STRENGTH

Activate your hands and feet to love God.

"Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man" (Luke 2:52). What can you do today to increase your own favor with the people who surround you? What can you do to increase the favor of your church in the sight of others?



FOCUS: Wisdom for the Anastasia family

For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding; he stores up sound wisdom for the upright; he is a shield to those who walk in integrity, guarding the paths of justice and watching over the way of his saints.

Proverbs 2:6-8

Love the Lord your God with your...

...MIND

Exert your mind to love God.

Think of an especially meaningful gift you may have received. What made it so significant? Was it the occasion on which you got it? Was it that you desperately needed it at the exact time someone gave it? Was it simply because you had such affection for the giver?

...HEART

Employ your heart to love God.

Now revel in some of the gifts God gives—Jesus, the “indescribable gift” (2 Corinthians 9:15); eternal life, “the free gift of God” (Romans 6:23); in fact, “Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights” (James 1:17).

...SOUL

Use your soul to love God.

Pray for the gift of wisdom to be poured out on us as a church so that we make God-honoring decisions as the body of Christ.

Father, you give good gifts to your children (Matthew 7:11). You’ve told us that we have not because we ask not (James 4:2). So, Lord, we ask you to grant us wisdom, specifically in regard to the new buildings we think are needed to better minister to the preschoolers, children and youth of our church. Give us clear minds to think through the project and receptive hearts to hear your voice. Protect us from rash decisions or unwise paths. We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

...STRENGTH

Activate your hands and feet to love God.

Memorize part of Paul’s prayer for the church at Ephesus: “...that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation...” (Ephesians 1:17). Use it as a prayer prompt throughout your day, continuously petitioning God for wisdom for Anastasia.



FOCUS: Unity in the Anastasia family

I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Ephesians 4:1-3

Love the Lord your God with your...

...MIND

Exert your mind to love God.

When Paul wrote the letter to the church at Ephesus, he was in prison at Rome. As he sat in chains, his mind was not consumed with how he could get out of jail, nor with how unfair it was that he was there in the first place. No, his concern for the Christians under his pastoral care was that they would live lives that were “worthy of the calling” to which they had been called. Read back over that description of a worthy life—one marked by humility, gentleness, patience, forbearance, unity, and peacefulness.

...HEART

Employ your heart to love God.

Take a hard, unflinching look at your own life. According to Paul’s list, how well are you doing in the “worthy life” department? How might a casual acquaintance grade you on the worthy meter? What about the people who spend a lot more time with you? Would they honestly say that you are humble and gentle? Patient and forbearing? A unifying peacemaker?

...SOUL

Use your soul to love God.

Pray for Anastasia, that we would not sacrifice unity, patience and gentleness with each other on the altar of efficiency and “getting things done.”

Jesus, you prayed for your followers “that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you” (John 17:20). Help us to desire for ourselves what you desire for us. Just as we all share “one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all” (Ephesians 4:5-6), make us one in heart and hand. We ask in Jesus’ name. Amen.

...STRENGTH

Activate your hands and feet to love God.

Think of a way to actively promote unity in our church. Is there a person who is going through a hard time who could use your help? Is there someone with whom you’ve had a falling out and you need to reconcile? Determine to act in some way that will bring a greater degree of unity in the Anastasia body.



FOCUS: Commitments of the Anastasia family

And David the king said to all the assembly, "Solomon my son, whom alone God has chosen, is young and inexperienced, and the work is great, for the palace will not be for man but for the Lord God. So I have provided for the house of my God, so far as I was able.... Who then will offer willingly, consecrating himself today to the Lord?"

1 Chronicles 29:1-2, 5

Love the Lord your God with your...

...MIND

Exert your mind to love God.

King David desired to raise a magnificent temple for his glorious God, but the Lord told him that his son, not he, would have that honor. Since it was not God's will that David build, the king committed to providing resources for the one who would. David's strategy for providing for the temple was twofold: he would personally give generously (1 Chronicles 29:2-5a), but he would also challenge his people to give (v. 5b).

...HEART

Employ your heart to love God.

David took an interesting approach when he called on his people to participate in giving. He didn't ask them to give merely material things; he asked them to give first *themselves*, then *their possessions*. Have you given yourself to the Lord's work? Have you consecrated (set apart for God's use) yourself willingly and gladly?

...SOUL

Use your soul to love God.

"Then the people rejoiced because they had given willingly, for with a whole heart they had offered freely to the Lord. David the king also rejoiced greatly" (1 Chronicles 29:9).

Lord, our ultimate goal is not to raise money or construct buildings, but to be transformed (Romans 12:1-2) into the people of God you've called us to be so we can help others embrace the life-changing truth of Jesus Christ that we've experienced. But we also acknowledge that sometimes, to do those things, we must raise money and construct buildings. So help us give ourselves willingly, with a whole heart. And thank you, Lord, that as we do that, joy will be the result. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

...STRENGTH

Activate your hands and feet to love God.

Have you opened yourself to being used by God? Can you honestly sing "All to Jesus I surrender, all to Him I freely give"? If not, what areas of your life are you holding on to, and why?

WEEK 1, DAY 6—Saturday, March 12



FOCUS: Personal Reflection

How has God spoken to you in the previous week? Did any of the scriptures seem to have a greater impact than others? How will your life be different from this point forward as God continues his transforming work in you?

Week 1, DAY 7—Sunday, March 13



FOCUS: Worship and Prayer

Join your brothers and sisters at Anastasia in worshiping your great God. Be sure to speak with God in prayer, both in corporate times of gathered worship and in quiet, personal times of one-on-one devotion.