



Week of Prayer and Fasting

January 22-28, 2023

Welcome

Welcome to Bethel's Week of Prayer and Fasting. This week has become a vital start to our ministry each year. We look forward to seeing God do wonderful, life-giving things in our congregation and our community.

To see God move, we know that it all starts with prayer!

Jesus said in *Luke 11:9*, "And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you."

This Week at Bethel

Sunday through Thursday we will be meeting in the Worship Center at 7:00pm for a one-hour prayer gathering. We will begin with a brief time of worship and then a church staff member will lead in a time of corporate prayer with a focus for the evening. On Friday evening we will have a powerful time of praise and worship beginning at 7:00pm.

The Purpose of Fasting

For many of us, the thought of deliberately going without food seems strange, even counterintuitive. This is understandable, especially given the fact that we live in a culture that doesn't value self-denial. Jesus, however, practiced fasting and He taught His followers to do the same. We read in the book of Acts and in the epistles that seasons of fasting were practiced in the early church. Perhaps this is why they witnessed so many miracles and experienced an exceptional power from God.

As we enter this week of prayer and fasting, we encourage you to give fasting a try. It's biblical and it's rewarding. (If you have a physical condition that gives you reason for concern, consult your physician prior to beginning a fast.) For most individuals, fasting is not a problem, in fact it's beneficial. There's no single right way to do a fast. Do what works best for you and expect God to use this experience to change your heart and increase your faith!

So, why fast?

The scriptures reveal many things about the power of fasting, but here are a few of the main reasons to practice fasting.

1. Fasting demonstrates spiritual hunger.
2. Fasting humbles us.
3. Fasting crucifies the desires of the flesh.
4. Fasting increases our sensitivity to the Holy Spirit.
5. Fasting brings breakthroughs in the Spirit.

Prayer Guide

We are providing scripture and prayer points for each day of the fast. Don't feel limited by what is on the page. Use them as starting points to make the most of your prayer time each day.

Sunday, January 22

The Church

Ephesians 6:18 (NIV)

Pray for...

- *Bethel Church ministries:
Children, Students, Women, Men, Creative Arts, etc.
- *The pastors, directors, and lay leaders
- *The pastoral search team, that God would make clear to them who our next lead pastor will be

Monday, January 23

Schools

Psalms 71:17 (NIV)

Schools make up one of the largest ministry fields. There are many areas that need constant prayer coverage.

Pray for...

- *God's wisdom and influence over the Oregon school administration and board as a whole
- *Students and parents - both have their struggles and need God to intervene to help build up strong godly generations
- *Students and parents who are in the homeschool community

Tuesday, January 24

Local Churches and Parachurch Organizations

Romans 10:15b (NLT)

Pray for...

- *All local churches in the Rogue Valley to speak Jesus in truth, in love, and in compassion for our hurting community
- *Local church leaders, to walk in strength and integrity, and with conviction in their calling
- *Gospel-based organizations that serve our community directly as the hands of Jesus, that their influence would grow, that their support would be constant, and that they would touch hurting lives for Jesus - Rogue Valley Pregnancy Center, the Gospel Mission, St. Vincent de Paul, Youth 71Five, Hearts with a Mission, etc.

Wednesday, January 25

Healing

James 5:16 (NIV)

Pray for...

- *Healing in all aspects of our church body
 - *God to comfort the grieving
 - *God to heal the brokenhearted
 - *God to give hope and light to the depressed
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Thursday, January 26

Missions

1 Chronicles 16:24

Come ready to pray for our Missionaries in the field both in the US and abroad. We will hear from some missionaries and pray with them about the struggles they are facing.

Friday, January 27

Worship

Psalms 95:6 (NIV)

Friday is a time to worship the Lord, as we come together as one to give Him praise and honor.

Pray for...

- *Hearts to be open
- *For God to move as we lift His name through worship and praise each week at church and in our homes
- *God to touch your own heart as you worship and focus on who He is

Ezekiel 36:26 (NLT)

"And I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony, stubborn heart and give you a tender, responsive heart."

Saturday, January 28

Families

Psalm 128:3 (ESV)

Pray for...

- *Families within our church
- *Marriages and family unity
- *Prodigals to come home
- *Those in our families that still don't know Christ



Night of *Worship*

Friday, January 27, 2023
at 7pm

Bethel Church Worship Center



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