Day 1 - Seek Healing

<u>1 Peter 2:24</u> He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.

<u>Jeremiah 17:14</u> Heal me, Lord, and I will be healed; save me and I will be saved, for you are the one I praise.

We serve a loving God who wants the best for us. He does not enjoy our suffering and He most certainly sympathizes with it. Our prayers, in the humility of our suffering, can break our hearts to a deeper fellowship and dependence on God. In our dependence we ask God to heal us. We can have the confidence that He can supernaturally heal and that He may very well do that for us. Today we focus our prayers on healing whether physical, spiritual, emotional, or relational.

- Those impacted and are sick from the virus.
- Those working in the medical community for their protection from the virus
- Those who are at high risk and vulnerable to the virus, for their protection
- Those who need healing emotionally from grief and loss
- Those who need healing from anxiety and depression
- Those who have fractured relationships and homes are not peaceful in this season

Day 2 - Seek Unity

Psalm 133:1 How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!

<u>Ephesians 4:16</u> From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

Unity in the body of Christ brings great joy to our Heavenly Father. If we seek the Holy Spirit first in everything we do, then others will supernaturally come next. We all have a vital role to play right now, but *God we ask that our role will truly bring glory to your name. Holy Spirit, we invite you here with us. We ask you to be "central" to everything that happens moving forward.*

- We seek God for the answers, not other sources
- We pray against political disunity
- Church leaders to be unified around the cross
- We put self aside
- We all examine our hearts and desires

Day 3 - Seek Peace

<u>John 14:26-27</u> But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

<u>Romans 4:25-5:1</u> He was delivered over to death for our trespasses and was raised to life for our justification. Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

<u>Philippians 4:6-7</u> In nothing be anxious, but in everything, by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your thoughts in Christ Jesus.

Jesus, as our substitutionary atonement, made a way for every person who in faith calls upon the name of the Lord to have an unbroken, eternal, and just relationship with God. Through the perfection of Christ, we are redeemed and accepted into the peace of the Father. There is no longer any separation between us and God, and we are no longer His enemies. Peace is not found in the absence of conflict or hardship, but in the presence of God. He is the generous giver of an unending supply of peace, which will protect our hearts and minds as He comforts our souls.

- The courage to relinquish our anxious thoughts and replace our worries with trust so God's peace can invade
- Supernatural peace to bring calm to those who are afraid
- A mentality and heart posture of thanksgiving and rejoicing—let worship be our weapon
- Believers who think they still have to earn God's forgiveness, favor, and peace
- Those who are having trouble sleeping or resting
- Comfort from the Holy Spirit for folks around the world who have lost loved ones during this time

Day 4 - Seek Rest

<u>Genesis 2:2</u> By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work.

<u>Matthew 11:28-30</u> Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.

Psalm 62:1 Truly my soul finds rest in God; my salvation comes from him.

We all find rest sometime, somewhere . . . whether in the soothing feeling that overcomes you as you sink onto your pillow-top mattress after an exhausting day, or at the long-awaited vacation destination as you finally recline by the pool, on the beach, or by the fire. Rest is good. God rested. We are created in His image to rest! Ultimately, above all "things" or "ways" in which to find rest, God designed us to find our truest form of rest in HIM! How do we do that? Scripture is clear from both mandate and the example of Christ upon the earth. Seek HIM first. God can and often delights to provide rest through many means (e.g. beds, vacations, "shelter in place", etc.), but are we seeking HIM first as the source of those means, or are we seeking the means and asking God to join and/or bless us after?

- A revival of dependency upon God to be our primary source of rest
- An awareness of any ways we seek rest before or instead of God & His provision
- A willingness to surrender and/or replace those ways with His ways
- Creative ways to seek God and His provided rest during this unique season
- A sustained commitment to habits, routines and rhythms that provide us true rest

Day 5 - Seek Love

<u>1 John 4:9-12</u> God showed how much He loved us by sending His one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through Him. This is real love- Not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins. Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other. No one's ever seen God. But if we love each other, God lives in us, and His love is brought to full expression in us.

John 15:13 There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends.

God is love. And scripture tells us we can know God's great love through His demonstration- by sacrificing His Son on the cross for our sins. Scripture also tells us that we can know God, and He gives us a simple way to know Him- love each other. Through that you will know God, and if you know God then you know real love because God is love. Seeking love means to love how God did, and that is through sacrifice. There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends. Seek Love. Seek Sacrifice.

- Us as believers to choose love first
- Those working "essential jobs" as they sacrifice health, family, etc.
- Those that do not know Christ to experience His love
- For us to love our neighbors

Day 6 - Seek Wisdom

<u>James 1:5</u> If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.

<u>James 3:17</u> But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere.

Our God LOVES to give good gifts, and one gift He loves to give in particular is Wisdom. When we need wisdom, all we have to do is ask. We know it is God's wisdom we have received when it leads us towards peace and love. When we seek wisdom from God, we can rest assured that he will provide - all that is left is for us to act on the gift!

- Wisdom in our conversations with our families
- Wisdom for those in leadership in America and around the world during this time
- Families to listen to God's wisdom over fear
- Business leaders to listen to God for wisdom of how to best serve their communities
- Wisdom for each of us in how to best care for our neighbors

Day 7 - Seek Provision

<u>Psalms 34:10</u> The lions may grow weak and hungry, but those who seek the LORD lack no good thing.

<u>Hebrews 13:5</u> Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."

<u>John 6:35</u> Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

So often in our (normal) daily lives we can get so caught up in the desire for comfort. We seek it out. Now, more than ever, we are faced with some serious questions as to how we will provide for those in our charge (families, communities, employees/ employers, etc). And, we may be holding on to fear surrounding the (seeming) lack of provision we *ourselves* are being given. Agreeably, it can be difficult at times to see God's provision while we are in the thick of the storm brewing. Seeking provision from the world pales in comparison to seeking His provision. When we come to the Father, we are met with an abundance of gifts which He is ready to shower upon us.

- God to replace our dependence on the world with dependence on Him
- "God's math" to reign over our finances
- Provide for our employees/employers and local businesses
- Provision of knowledge for local, national, and international leaders
- Provision of opportunity to utilize this situation for Kingdom growth

Day 8 - Seek Hope

<u>Romans 15:13</u> May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

<u>2 Corinthians 4:17-18</u> For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

<u>Hebrews 10:23</u> Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.

Our God is faithful. He has proven Himself over and over and yet we often struggle to hold on to hope. Hope is to trust, believe in, wait for with eager expectation. In scripture there is a close connection between hope and trust. Our hope rises as we trust God. Hope requires patient endurance and it is steadfast. Hope is a gift from God through grace, not something we have to work up ourselves. The Holy Spirit is our source of hope, for His power causes hope to abound. Hope leads to joy, boldness, faith, love, and comfort. Today we pray for hope because it is the reason we can persevere through our current challenges!

- Those of us who do know Jesus as our Savior to remember that He is our ultimate Hope!
- Those who do not know Jesus to enter into relationship with Him who is our Hope!
- Those who need hope for healing
- Those who need hope because they are dealing with personal financial crisis
- Those who need hope for restored relationships
- Those who need hope for peaceful homes

Day 9 - Seek Compassion

<u>Lamentations 3:22-23</u> Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

Romans 12:15 Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.

Compassion is simply sympathetic pity and concern for the sufferings or misfortunes of others. Compassion is being the hands and feet of Jesus. We can show sympathy through the giving of essential physical gifts like food and shelter...we can also be an ear and heart to the misfortunes of others, and a voice of love, care, and encouragement as we pray and minister to others.

- Those who are suffering physically
- Those with pre-existing medical issues
- Those who have lost their jobs and families in crisis
- Those who are on the front lines
- Those who can only see despair and feel scared
- Those who are lost will find Jesus

Day 10 - Seek Reconciliation

<u>Romans 5:10-11</u> For if, when we were enemies of God, we were reconciled to Him through the death of His Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through His life! Not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

<u>2 Corinthians 5:18-21</u> Everything is from God, who has reconciled us to himself through Christ and has given us the ministry of reconciliation. That is, in Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and he has committed the message of reconciliation to us. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us. We plead on Christ's behalf: "Be reconciled to God." He made the one who did not know sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

The crucifixion of Christ was not only the spotless lamb being sacrificed so that we could be cleansed by His unblemished blood; and it was not only a mind-blowing divine exchange, as He took our sinfulness and gave us His righteousness; it was also the unparalleled real-life picture of grace being poured out on undeserving people in desperate need of a relational and spiritual reunion with our Creator. He not only reconciled us to Himself; He showed us the epitome of reconciliation—not counting someone's trespasses against them. And He charged *and* empowered us to do the same. Let us keep in step with the Spirit and apply this to our own relationships as we carry the message of reconciliation with us wherever we go and for whomever we meet.

- Those you know who are unsaved to be reconciled to God
- Reconciliation between estranged and/or wounded family members
- The Church to walk in and embody the message of biblical reconciliation
- A greater understanding of and gratitude for all that God has forgiven us for, so that we can more readily and more quickly choose to not count it against others when they trespass against us
- The restoration of relationships that are strained or broken with your family/friends/ neighbors/co-workers/etc.
- Fresh revelations of the meaning and magnitude of our beautiful reconciliation and union with Christ

Day 11 - Seek Holiness

<u>1 Peter 1:15</u> But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: 'Be holy, because I am holy.

<u>Colossians 3:12</u> Therefore, as Gods' chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

Holiness is the state of being "set apart"; special, reserved, distinct. Being "holy" means that we ought to stand out. Jesus said we are to be "salt" and "light" for the purpose of adding something useful to our world and being a beacon of hope, peace, wisdom, love, etc. to others. In this season of unprecedented uncertainty, we have the opportunity to do things a little differently. For example, we can show the world unwavering faith in God's goodness and provision, even if we don't have specifics on just how He will do it. Or, when others are taking the opportunity to lambast leaders, pontificate on policies, debate decisions, and criticize common responses, we can "clothe ourselves" with holiness and set a different tone of empathy (seeking first to understand) and building bridges of common connection instead of perpetuating chasms of contrast.

- A rekindled desire to be holy in all we do, as God is holy
- Creative ways to stand out as God's holy people during this time
- Fortitude (in the Spirit's power) to "stand out" vs. our flesh's tendency to "follow suit"
- The church internationally to be recognized as a beacon of hope, peace, wisdom, love, etc.

Day 12 - Seek Humility

James 4:10 Humble yourselves before the Lord, and He will lift you up.

<u>Matthew 11:29-30</u> Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.

These are very humbling times we are living in right now. We as humans have come to realize two things during this time - 1. We are not in control *and* 2. Death is a very real thing. The good news is that 1. Jesus is King and He is in control *and* 2. Jesus is our savior. Sometimes we are forced to be humble, but our Jesus invites us to humble ourselves before Him. God intended for us to depend on Him, to be His children. As we seek our God, would we seek Him in humility.

- Us to depend on God everyday
- Humility in our relationships during this season
- Humility to be open and honest about our feelings and needs
- Humility to continue to praise Him during uncertainty

Day 13 - Seek Death

<u>Galatians 5:24</u> And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

<u>1 Peter 2:24</u> He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.

Seeking death can feel like a scary and overwhelming idea, but we are called to follow Jesus' lead and die to ourselves. When we give our lives to God, we are offering them up as a *sacrifice* to Him. We have to allow ourselves to die to our selfishness in order that we can live in the fullness of the Spirit who God gave us. As Christians, we also have a new understanding of death; it is not final, it is only the beginning of an eternal party in heaven with our Father who loves us. When we see dying daily as a holy sacrifice to God, and physical death as the entry to forever, we do not need to fear!

- Anger to die and peace to thrive
- Selfishness to die and a love for others to thrive
- A deep understanding of what it means to offer ourselves as a sacrifice to God
- Us as Christians to reach out to our friends who fear death. Pray for us to give hope to the hopeless

Day 14 - Seek Power

<u>Isaiah 40:29-31</u> He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

<u>Mark 4:37-40</u> A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, "Teacher, don't you care if we drown?" He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm. He said to his disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?"

<u>Acts 1:8</u> "...but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

On the day before the resurrection it must have been hard for Jesus' followers to grasp the power (Holy Spirit) that was coming in His place. Imagine yourself in that moment; confused and in mourning all the while having been filled with Jesus' teachings. On this side of the resurrection it seems a bit easier, most days, to grasp this reality. However, we inevitably fall short when we come to a place of seeking our own manufactured, man-made power. Alternately, we are able to excel and prosper when we seek true Power which is only available through a pouring out of Holy Spirit. This Elevation Worship song, *Graves into Gardens,* says:

> You turn mourning to dancing You give beauty for ashes You turn shame into glory You're the only one who can

You turn graves into gardens You turn bones into armies You turn seas into highways You're the only one who can

- Shedding of a self-reliance and a turning to dependence upon God's power
- For courage and strength to wield this Power to advance the Kingdom
- Ability to see His power amongst the raging storms life throws at us
- Families to welcome and invite Holy Spirit's power to reign in their homes
- Praise of this amazing gift that we are given as believers

Day 15 - Seek Life

John 10:10 I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

<u>Psalm 16:11</u> You will make known to me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; In Your right hand there are pleasures forever.

<u>John 6:35</u> Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

We have a choice to make each and every day. Will we choose life? Or, will we choose those things that lead to death? Jesus, our savior, gave His life that we might thrive in our lives. Will we meditate on the truth of who God is or will we listen to what the world around us says? Will we listen to how God has invited us to live, or will we treat those around us with the contempt or indifference we see in the world around us? Choosing life means leaning in close to Jesus, inviting Holy Spirit to show us the ways that we are turning our backs on Him. It means taking every thought captive and paying attention to the good and beautiful things of God. Today we focus our prayers on life; an abundant, purposeful life. A life that carries life to others!

- -Those who need life breathed into their identity
- -Those who need life breathed into their marriage
- -Those who need life breathed into their parenting
- -Those who need life breathed into their relationships
- -Those who need life breathed into their jobs
- -Those who need life breathed into their finances