



**CORNERSTONE COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
**Journal Guide for Personal Reflection**  
**and Branch Group Discussion**

## ***Welcome to the Journey of Faith for the next 31 days.***

We are taking the month of May 2022 to spend time pausing, listening and reflecting on God's Voice. We are seeking to hear from Him through His Word (Scripture), through worship of His name, and through Prayer. The focus is listening for God's direction for our church and for yourself in this next season God would have for us.

We will be using a variation of the P.R.A.Y. acrostic to guide this time... please set aside about 15-20 minimum each day for this prayer reflection experience.

**P is for Pause** – take a few moments to quiet your heart and your mind from all distractions. You may have to go to another room or find another time to have this time of reflection. Pause regularly throughout your prayer time.

**R is for Read on God's Word and Reflect all that He reveals** about Himself through His holy Scriptures. Each day we will start with a passage of Scripture to reflect on – guided by a brief question to prepare our hearts to hear God's voice. You may want to read the whole chapter.

**A is for Ask God** for guidance, for insight, for any pressing need you are experiencing because He desires to provide for His children. Take time to listen for God to speak.

**Y is for Yield to God's Voice...** this may be a new practice for you to spend to sit in silence, seeking the Holy Spirit's promptings. As you hear His voice, confirm the thought with Scripture and that it does not go against what the Bible already has revealed from God; then write down what you sense God saying to you in the journal space provided each day. Finish with Closing Prayer at end of booklet.

## **A Special Word for Branch Groups...**

Please set aside extra time each week at Branch Group to spend time praying that God would reveal His will for our church. There will be questions at the end of this booklet to guide the conversation and prepare your group to pray. Leaders, please look over these questions to determine which questions may be right for your group to discuss in preparation for prayer.

## **Please join us on Wednesday nights at our midweek worship service.**

Each Wednesday night in the month of May will be a special worship and guided prayer time to extend what we are doing to be done corporately. The first Wednesday of June, June 1<sup>st</sup>, will be a special celebration that brings to conclusion our 31 days of Prayer faith journey... please make a special effort to join us that night as we want to hear what God has been speaking to you.

## **Prayer Themes for our journey – we will pray for:**

Week 1 ... Our Posture and Approach in Prayer

Week 2 ... Personal Protection and Provision

Week 3 ... Church Leadership and Guidance

Week 4 ... Spiritual Warfare and Prayer

## **Free Suggested Resource:**

*“Lectio 365”* app available in your phone’s app store







## Day 4...

Pause for a few moments to quiet your heart and mind

Read Psalm 85:8-10 (NLT)...

*I listen carefully to what God the Lord is saying,  
for He speaks peace to His faithful people.*

*But let them not return to their foolish ways.*

*<sup>9</sup> Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him,  
so our land will be filled with His glory.*

*<sup>10</sup> Unfailing love and truth have met together.  
Righteousness and peace have kissed!*

And Reflect on:

- 1) What are the elements God has spoken to us?
- 2) What is the relationship between listening carefully to God and “fearing” Him?

Ask God for to show you how to hear His voice more clearly and to reject any foolish distractions...

Yield to God’s Voice: write down what you hear God say

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## Day 8... (Week 2 ... Personal Protection and Provision)

Pause for a few moments to quiet your heart and mind

Read Col. 1:9-12 (NIV)...

*For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of His will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, <sup>10</sup> so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please Him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, <sup>11</sup> being strengthened with all power according to His glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, <sup>12</sup> and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of His holy people in the kingdom of light.*

And **Reflect** on:

- 1) What is the focus of the knowledge that God gives us?
- 2) Why does God provide this knowledge?

Ask God to help you live worthy of Him and all He has given you, bearing spiritual fruit in all your efforts ...

Yield to God's Voice: write down what you hear God say

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## Day 16...

Pause for a few moments to quiet your heart and mind

Read Eph 3:14-21 (NIV)...

*For this reason I kneel before the Father, <sup>15</sup> from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. <sup>16</sup> I pray that out of His glorious riches He may strengthen you with power through His Spirit in your inner being, <sup>17</sup> so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, <sup>18</sup> may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, <sup>19</sup> and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. <sup>20</sup> Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, <sup>21</sup> to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.*

And Reflect on:

- 1) How would you summarize what Paul is praying to happen in the Ephesian church?
- 2) Who is the one to accomplish this work and how?

Ask God to deepen our church's foundation of love so that God is glorified in our church

Yield to God's Voice: write down what you hear God say

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## Day 20...

Pause for a few moments to quiet your heart and mind

Read Phil. 2:1-4 (NIV)...

*Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from His love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, <sup>2</sup> then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. <sup>3</sup> Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, <sup>4</sup> not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.*

And Reflect on:

- 1) Why is our personal experience with Jesus the motivating factor in how we are to treat others?
- 2) How do we overcome “selfish ambition”?

Ask God to deepen the common sharing of God’s comfort and love at our church; ask for insight of who’s interests need to be considered more...

Yield to God’s Voice: write down what you hear God say

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## Day 28...

Pause for a few moments to quiet your heart and mind

Read Romans 8:31-37 (NIV)...

*What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? <sup>32</sup> He who did not spare His own Son, but gave Him up for us all—how will He not also, along with Him, graciously give us all things? <sup>33</sup> Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. <sup>34</sup> Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. <sup>35</sup> Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? <sup>36</sup> As it is written: “For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.” <sup>37</sup> No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.*

And Reflect on:

- 1) Why do I need not feel defeated?
- 2) What should be my mindset instead be based upon?

Ask God to intervention in any situation in which you feel defeated, condemned or separated from Him...

Yield to God’s Voice: write down what you hear God say

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## Day 30... (Finishing Strong by Listening)

Pause for a few moments to quiet your heart and mind

Read Ps. 37:3-7 (NIV)...

*“Trust in the Lord and do good;*

*dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture.*

<sup>4</sup> *Take delight in the Lord,*

*and He will give you the desires of your heart.*

<sup>5</sup> *Commit your way to the Lord;*

*trust in Him and He will do this:*

<sup>6</sup> *He will make your righteous reward shine like the dawn,  
    your vindication like the noonday sun.*

<sup>7</sup> *Be still before the Lord*

*and wait patiently for Him;*

*do not fret when people succeed in their ways,  
    when they carry out their wicked schemes.*

And Reflect on:

- 1) What is the connection between “trusting”, “taking delight in the Lord” and being still “before the Lord”?
- 2) Considering the situation in v. 7, why is this hard to do?

Ask God to quiet your mind and open your eyes to see the alive and present powerful Savior, pray for people of faith to rise up with gentle but bold voices of truth...

Yield to God’s Voice: write down what you hear God say

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## Final Summary Thoughts

Write below a summary of what you believe God has spoken to you over the past 31 days...

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### Closing Prayer (*from Lectio 365*):

Father, help me to live this day to the full, being true to You, in every way.

Jesus, help me to give myself away to others, being kind to everyone I meet.

Spirit, help me to love the lost, proclaiming Christ in all I do and say.

Amen

## **Branch Group Questions**

Here are a few questions to “prime the pump” for your Branch Group to spend more time praying and listening for God’s voice during your weekly gathering

### **Week 1 (Our Posture and Approach in Prayer)**

- How do you normally approach your prayer time?
- What are you expecting to hear/feel during prayer?

### **Week 2 (Personal Protection and Provision)**

- What is your favorite Bible verse that speaks about the way God cares for you?
- Why is prayer a primary way we experience God’s peace?

### **Week 3 (Church Leadership and Guidance)**

- What do you see God doing in our church?
- What is something you would want God to do in the lives and families of our church’s leaders?

### **Week 4 (Spiritual Warfare and Prayer)**

- What are the greatest threats to God’s people that you see?
- What do you think God is saying for us as a church?