

WEEK SIX

prayers OF hope

monday - PRAY FOR RENEWAL

Satisfy us each morning with your unfailing love, so we may sing for joy to the end of our lives. Give us gladness in proportion to our former misery! Replace the evil years with good. Let us, your servants, see you work again; let your children see your glory.

psalm 90: 14-16

The faithful love of the Lord never ends! His mercies never cease. Great is his faithfulness; his mercies begin afresh each morning.

lamentations 3: 22-23

So, here we are in week SIX of what feels at times like an alternate universe, like we are stuck in the movie Groundhog Day. It can be difficult to wake up each morning with the drive and passion to do it all over again, for another day. However, that's what we need to do. This is the day the Lord has made, as mundane, challenging, or exhausting it may be. We need renewal. We need to be refreshed, readied for another day, another week, of resting in the Lord, of homeschooling children, of going to work in an uncertain world. Praise the Lord that each day is a new opportunity to start fresh. May we see today, not as simply another day to endure, but as a unique day, created by God, brimming with promise and possibility. May we allow ourselves to be refreshed, surprised even, by the unfailing love of God.

TODAY'S ACTION STEPS

Ask God to refresh your soul...to give you renewed strength and energy to face the day. If you've never begun a morning habit of connecting with God each morning, start today!

tuesday - PRAY FOR THE UNEMPLOYED

And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.

philippians 1: 6

And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.

romans 8: 28

Many of our brothers and sisters have found themselves in incredibly uncertain times. An unprecedented number of people have filed for unemployment and the Central Coast does not remain untouched by these trials. If you've recently been laid off or seen reduced hours or pay, please know, you are not alone. More importantly, God is not finished. He has so many great opportunities ahead for you. He sees you, He hurts for you, and He's got this! Your worth and value was never wrapped up in what you did anyway. May you find comfort in knowing that your community is praying for you today!

TODAY'S ACTION STEPS

Pray for those who are experiencing job loss. Pray for them by name if you know someone personally. If you've lost your job and are experiencing financial hardship, take advantage of the resources available to you. There is no shame in asking for help. (www.newlifepismo.com/pantry)

wednesday - **PRAY AGAINST FEAR**

Don't be afraid, for I am with you.
Don't be discouraged, for I am your God.
I will strengthen you and help you.
I will hold you up with my victorious right hand.

isaiah 41: 10

The world can feel like a surreal place these days. Going to a grocery store wearing a mask can understandably be fear-inducing. Our collective fear points to the reality that we like to be in control of our surroundings and circumstances. We don't need to feel shame over feeling afraid; however it is an opportunity to shift our perspective. Rather than focusing on the feeling of being out of control, acknowledge the fact that we were never in charge in the first place. Acknowledge and find comfort in the One who is still seated on the throne. The antidote to fear is love. When we understand in our head AND our heart that the God of the universe loves us completely and unconditionally, it has the power to dispel fear in our lives. Take heart. The God who is over sickness, over job loss, over mortgages, and stress; He loves you and He is WITH you in this.

TODAY'S ACTION STEPS

Spend a few minutes more than you usually would in quiet, focused on the love of God. Allow His peace to wash over you. Spend some time filling your mind and heart with good things. Listen to some worship music and spend time in God's Word.

thursday - **PRAY FOR REVIVAL**

I am the Lord, who opened a way through the waters, making a dry path through the sea. I called forth the mighty army of Egypt with all its chariots and horses. I drew them beneath the waves, and they drowned, their lives snuffed out like a smoldering candlewick. "But forget all that— it is nothing compared to what I am going to do. For I am about to do something new. See, I have already begun! Do you not see it? I will make a pathway through the wilderness. I will create rivers in the dry wasteland.

isaiah 43: 16-19

The God of miracles is on the move! "Can you feel the winds are changing? There's a new day on the rise. And the atmosphere is breaking as the new world comes to life... Let a sleeping world awaken. There's a new day on the rise and the enemy is shaking as the graveyards spring to life" May these lyrics from Hillsong's Echoes be our prayer today. Let's pray that our sleeping world will awaken through these uncomfortable circumstances. We've already heard countless stories of new life taking places. People who've never set foot in church tuning in to church livestreams, people asking questions about who God is and who He can be in their lives. Behold, God is doing a new thing and we get to have a front row seat!

I've got a feeling the darkness won't last very long.

TODAY'S ACTION STEPS

Pray for revival, in your own heart, in our schools, in our county, in our nation, and beyond. Listen to the song "Echoes ('till we see the other side) by Hillsong. Let your heart be encouraged and hopeful that God is bringing good out of these circumstances. Pray for those in your own life who are going through life "asleep" and haven't experienced the love of Jesus yet.

friday - **PRAY FOR CONTENTMENT**

Not that I was ever in need, for I have learned how to be content with whatever I have. I know how to live on almost nothing or with everything. I have learned the secret of living in every situation, whether it is with a full stomach or empty, with plenty or little. For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength.

philippians 4: 11-13

As more and more festivities get canceled and this season seems to keep dragging on, it is very easy to let bitterness and resentment creep in and take root in our hearts. I'm not seeking to minimize the pain and hardship that many of us are experiencing; the emotions are very real and valid. However, our attitude can greatly affect the type of people we will become when we finally return to some normalcy. May we allow this time to work in our hearts to teach us to be content in simplicity. May we actually come to enjoy the little things, to see aspects of these long days as a blessing. May this teach us to embrace thankfulness in all circumstances.

TODAY'S ACTION STEPS

If you've been struggling in this area, spend some time realigning your heart to the things of God. Allow Him to show you the things that truly matter. Make a list of things you have to be thankful for.

saturday - **PRAY FOR FOOD PROVIDERS**

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.
matthew 11: 28

The Lord is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation; this is my God, and I will praise him, my father's God, and I will exalt him.
exodus 15: 2

I've never been so thankful for those who are putting their health at risk to make sure our fridges and cupboards remain stocked. As we spend more and more time at home and the demand for food seemingly increases, it is getting harder and harder for food providers to keep up. From farmers, to truck drivers, to grocery store workers, to restaurants who remain open for takeout...all of these people are working to keep our food supply available. May we treat them with gratitude and pray protection over their lives and their businesses. We also acknowledge that these times are making it harder and harder to keep putting food on our tables. Thank you also to those who give generously to food pantries and other great organizations. You also are a food provider and we pray God's blessings on your life.

TODAY'S ACTION STEPS

Pray for farmers and restaurants and truck drivers and grocers. Pray that God would sustain them and protect them from illness, fatigue, and financial strain. If you know someone in this industry, pray for them by name and let them know you prayed for them today!

sunday - **PRAY TO SEE GOD GLORIFIED**

Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think. Glory to him in the church and in Christ Jesus through all generations forever and ever! Amen.
ephesians 3: 20-21

At the end of the day; at the end of this season, what we want more than anything is to see God high and lifted up, shining in the light of His glory. We want to see God's mighty power on display for all to see. We want those with closed hearts to believe in miracles again, to put their trust and faith in the Waymaker. However, we want all these things not only for our own benefit, but so that

God's name would be lifted above all other names. I'm confident that He's going to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think! It is for that reason, and 10,000 other reasons that He is so worthy of our worship and devotion. Today, may we humble ourselves and put God in His rightful place in our hearts.

TODAY'S ACTION STEPS

Spend time reflecting on the majesty and splendor of our God. Declare to Him that He is worthy of your praise. Pray that our generations would see the glory of God through this situation. Pray that our lives would accurately reflect God's glory at work within us.