

# SACRED *assembly*

## Devotional Resources

Week 2

**Consecrate a fast, proclaim a sacred assembly; gather the elders and all the inhabitants of the land to the house of the Lord your God, and cry out to the Lord.**

**[ Joel 1:14 ]**

# OVERVIEW

Sacred Assembly will be a set aside time when we gather as a church to proclaim the name of God through worship, prayer, fasting, and reading the Word of God in a more intentional way. In the weeks leading up to this so-called Sacred Assembly, we will have daily devotionals and prayer focuses that we emphasize together as a unified church body. This booklet contains week one of our daily devotionals. To receive our daily prayer focuses, please text **SACRED** to **888.744.0761** to sign up for our text thread. These prayer focuses will come out daily and reflect the daily devotional schedule.

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- **January 13 - 17** :: Daily Devotionals Week #1
- **January 15** :: Night of Worship (in Dalton, GA)
- **January 20 - 24** :: Daily Devotionals Week #2
- **January 22** :: Day of Prayer and Fasting
- **January 23 + 26** :: Celebration Services

## RESOURCES



Scan the QR Code  
or visit our page  
[rockbridge.cc/sacred](https://rockbridge.cc/sacred)  
for information on  
how to fast, pray,  
journal, and more.

## Daily Devotional #6 - 01.20.25

### Verse

**Psalm 27:1-6** :: "The Lord is my light and my salvation – whom should I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life – whom should I dread? When evildoers came against me to devour my flesh, my foes and my enemies stumbled and fell. Though an army deploys against me, my heart will not be afraid; though a war breaks out against me, I will still be confident. I have asked one thing from the Lord ; it is what I desire: to dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, gazing on the beauty of the Lord and seeking him in his temple. For he will conceal me in his shelter in the day of adversity; he will hide me under the cover of his tent; he will set me high on a rock. Then my head will be high above my enemies around me; I will offer sacrifices in his tent with shouts of joy. I will sing and make music to the Lord."

### Devotional Thought

One of the most powerful forces in your spiritual journey is fear. When David wrote this Psalm, he was clearly in a moment that could have caused great fear. He faced evildoers, foes, enemies, and armies. He even described the possibility of his flesh being devoured and wars breaking out. It sounds like an incredibly overwhelming moment in his life!

Now, you may not have evildoers coming against you to "devour your flesh," but there are likely situations in your life causing fear or anxiety. Here's the beautiful truth: God is fully aware of the reality and power of fear in your life, and He offers help! In fact, He even commands us not to fear.

As author N.T. Wright points out:

*"Do you know what the most frequent command in the Bible turns out to be? What instruction, what order, is given again and again by God, by angels, by Jesus, by prophets, and apostles? What do you think—'Be good'? 'Be holy'? 'Don't sin'? ...No. The most frequent command in the Bible is: 'Don't be afraid.'"*

## Application

When we allow fear to take a significant place in our lives, we risk missing the joy, peace, and fullness of life that God desires for us. David understood that he didn't have to be afraid, and here's what he knew about God—truths we also need to hold onto as we face our fears:

- The Lord is our salvation.
- The Lord is the stronghold of our lives.
- He conceals us in His shelter.
- He hides us under His tent.
- He sets us high on a rock.

This means you do not have to be afraid because you are surrounded, covered, hidden, and held by the strength of God. Your Father in Heaven assures you: "Even though the things around you may seem overwhelming, I am holding you. You do not have to fear."

## Prayer

Take a moment to confess to God anything in your life that may be causing fear. It could be a health challenge, a family issue, a parenting struggle, financial stress, or even a personal battle with sin. As you bring your fears to Him, ask Him to strengthen your faith in His power and promise to help you overcome them. Ask Him to remind you of His presence and His unwavering support in whatever situation you are facing.

## Daily Devotional #7 - 01.21.25

### Verse

**Jeremiah 17: 5-8 ::** "This is what the Lord says: Cursed is the person who trusts in mankind. He makes human flesh his strength, and his heart turns from the Lord . He will be like a juniper in the Arabah; he cannot see when good comes but dwells in the parched places in the wilderness, in a salt land where no one lives. The person who trusts in the Lord , whose confidence indeed is the Lord , is blessed. He will be like a tree planted by water: it sends its roots out toward a stream, it doesn't fear when heat comes, and its foliage remains green. It will not worry in a year of drought or cease producing fruit."

### Devotional Thought

If we accept the challenge of racing against the horses—that is, embracing the challenges and pursuing the fullness of the good plan God has for us as Christians—we must ensure we place our trust in the right source. Jeremiah delivered a word from God, reminding His people that only He is worthy of complete dependence. God warned that anyone who puts their trust in mankind is "cursed."

The imagery of a withering shrub in the desert might bring to mind moments in your life when you felt disconnected from the Lord. Often, these seasons arise when we rely on our abilities, seek our own solutions, or ignore the Lord's guidance and wisdom. Can you recall a time when trusting in yourself rather than in the Lord led to difficulty?

In contrast, the image of a tree planted by the water demonstrates how God desires to provide security, refuge, nourishment (both physical and spiritual), and so much more—if we position ourselves by His living water. Supernatural strength flows there. Perseverance is found there. God's will is revealed there.

The ultimate blessing is available to everyone who trusts and depends on the Lord, whose "confidence IS the Lord." Let your roots reach out to the One who quenches every thirst.

## Application

What does dependence on the Lord look like in practical terms?

- **Filling up daily** on the power that comes from His Word.
- **Casting your cares** on Him, knowing He cares deeply for you (1 Peter 5:7).
- **Developing a deeper prayer life** that includes thanksgiving and worship—acknowledging who God is and remembering how He always comes through for us.

God doesn't promise that depending on Him will shield us from challenges or hardships. Instead, He assures us that we will never "cease producing fruit." Even more fulfilling than achieving what we desire in this life of racing against the horses is producing fruit that honors and glorifies our heavenly Father!

## Prayer

*Jehovah Jireh (Lord, our Provider), we place our dependence entirely on YOU to supply exactly what we need. Guide us, Father, toward Your perfect will for our lives and families so that we may produce good fruit that glorifies Your holy name. Forgive us for relying on our own strength and trusting in our flawed, imperfect selves. Lord, grant us the wisdom, strength, and power that come only from You, and may we turn back every blessing into praise for Your glory. In Jesus' name, we pray, Amen.*

## Daily Devotional #8 - 01.22.25

### Verse

**Revelation 21:1-5a** :: “Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. 2 I also saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared like a bride adorned for her husband. 3 Then I heard a loud voice from the throne:[a] Look, God’s dwelling[b] is with humanity, and he will live with them. They will be his peoples,[c] and God himself will be with them and will be their God.[d] 4 He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; grief, crying, and pain will be no more, because the previous things[e] have passed away. 5 Then the one seated on the throne said, “Look, I am making everything new.” He also said, “Write, because these words[f] are faithful and true.”

### Devotional Thought

In the book of Revelation, John shares a magnificent vision from God of a new heaven and a new earth. He describes people from all walks of life gathered before the throne of God, with multitudes of angels singing His praises.

In chapter 21, John offers us a glimpse of this vision in all its grandeur. We see God’s promise to dwell with us and His commitment to make all things new. In our world today, where pain, suffering, depression, and anxiety are prevalent, this vision gives us incredible hope—reminding us that this is not our final destination!

Yet, amid this glorious revelation, we observe a profoundly simple act. Verse 4 reminds us: “He will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

As John witnesses this awe-inspiring picture of heaven, God takes the time to wipe away a tear.

What a powerful reminder—the kingdom of God often comes in the smallest of ways. Each day, He presents us with opportunities to love others as He loves us. In a world that embraces the



mantra, “Go big or go home,” we’re reminded that God is often at work in the small and seemingly insignificant moments. He has great plans for us, even in our current circumstances, when we seek Him with hunger and expectancy.

## Application

Maybe you find yourself seeking hope but believing it lies somewhere in the distant future. Every day feels like a grind—trudging through life, day by day, hoping for a brighter tomorrow. Maybe marriage will bring that joy? Maybe retirement will bring peace? Perhaps rest will finally come when you see Heaven for yourself?

Instead, ask yourself these questions:

- Can I, like John, recognize the small acts of God amidst the grandeur of Heaven?
- Can I see those moments in my daily life?

God is moving in your life, even today. Ask Him to open your eyes to the opportunities He is placing before you—opportunities to live out your faith with joy and love toward friends, family, and coworkers.

Have hope! God gives us glimpses of His kingdom every day. When we seek Him with open hearts, we will see it.

## Prayer

*God, show me the small beginnings You’ve placed before me today. Lead me to love and serve everyone I encounter. Fill me with Your love, so that I may share it with the world. I seek You today, marveling at the glimpses of Your kingdom, on earth as it is in Heaven. I trust that Your greatness is revealed in the smallest of ways, and I will run to them with joy and hope today. Amen.*

## Daily Devotional #9 - 01.23.25

### Verse

**Jeremiah 1:17-19:** "Now, get ready. Stand up and tell them everything that I command you. Do not be intimidated by them or I will cause you to cower before them. 18 Today, I am the one who has made you a fortified city, an iron pillar, and bronze walls against the whole land—against the kings of Judah, its officials, its priests, and the population. 19 They will fight against you but never prevail over you, since I am with you to rescue you."

### Devotional Thought *(written by Pablo Paredes)*

I remember back in 2007 when our first child was born. I was in my early 20s, full of dreams for him. Then, our three daughters were born, and that feeling didn't change. Early on, we could see their potential—the way they thought, what they liked, their unique personalities, and their God-given abilities.

Seventeen years later, I still see their potential, but we no longer merely dream about it. Instead, we work to prepare them to live up to that potential. When we see glimpses of their full potential realized, we rejoice. But the reality is, there are times when we also see laziness, mediocrity, and wasted opportunities. In those moments, instead of rejoicing, we lament over what could have been. There is a deep sadness when we know someone with potential but watch them waste it by not putting in the work.

God told Jeremiah to prepare. To prepare means to be "ready" to do or deal with something. God saw the potential in Jeremiah and prepared him to become like a "fortified city, an iron pillar, and bronze walls" against his enemies. When the battle came, Jeremiah was ready to fight & 'prevail...since God was with him.'

God sees your potential. However, your potential isn't defined by your beauty, abilities, or power. Your true potential is God Himself in you and what He can do through your beauty, abilities, and power.

As a child of God through faith in Christ Jesus (Galatians 3:26), your potential is to love, think, speak, and relate to others *like*

Jesus (Romans 8:29). You may not see it now, but that doesn't make it any less true—it is a fact! You may not feel it now, but your feelings don't change this truth.

Our Father is telling us today what He told His child Jeremiah: **"Now, get ready."**

God doesn't just prepare us through hearing the Bible but also through doing it. He uses life circumstances to shape our character to be more like Jesus, equipping us to overcome stronger and bigger challenges—just as Jesus did. But how tragic and wasteful it is when we ignore this preparation, settling for defeated and mediocre lives. Take a moment to reflect: Is that you?

### Application

Imagine if we had known each other in kindergarten, and then, 25 years later, we met again, only for you to realize that I had not changed at all. Still in the same kindergarten class, the same height, same thinking, same attitude, and same vocabulary—two decades later! You might say, "Wow, how sad. He never grew up; something must have gone wrong."

Friend, don't underestimate your calling, your potential, or your God! Instead, start preparing for what lies ahead in 2025 by discerning which characteristic of Jesus our good Father is shaping in you. Step into your God-given potential with confidence, knowing that God is with you—or, more accurately, that you are on God's side (Matthew 28:20). Prepare! Get ready!

### Prayer

*Father, hallowed be Your name! I praise You for Your patience as You prepare me according to the potential You've placed within me. Help me to remember who I am in Christ. I confess that I need You every moment of this preparation, and I acknowledge my need for discipline, as my human nature tends toward laziness. Thank You, dear Lord, in advance for all that You will accomplish in me and through me. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

# Daily Devotional #10 - 01.24.25

## Verse

**Psalm 37:1-7** :: “Do not be agitated by evildoers; do not envy those who do wrong. 2 For they wither quickly like grass and wilt like tender green plants. 3 Trust in the Lord and do what is good; dwell in the land and live securely.[a] 4 Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you your heart’s desires. 5 Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him, and he will act, 6 making your righteousness shine like the dawn, your justice like the noonday. 7 Be silent before the Lord and wait expectantly for him; do not be agitated by one who prospers in his way, by the person who carries out evil plans.”

## Devotional Thought

### **When was the last time you felt agitated?**

In Psalm 37, the word “agitated” appears twice within the first seven verses. In verses 1 and 7, note what the psalmist tells us not to be agitated by. We live in a world where bad things happen, and it often seems that those doing terrible things are the ones prospering. The greedy gain more. The selfish have their way. The power-hungry amass even more power.

Psalm 37 serves as a powerful reminder that we cannot place our hope in what we see. Our perspective is always limited, and our knowledge is finite. The grass isn’t always greener. The psalmist warns us not to be swayed by appearances, particularly when overwhelmed by the evil and injustice we witness in the world.

At times, it feels like evil and injustice are prevailing. After enough of these experiences, our faith can falter, leaving us agitated and impatient.

Psalm 37 holds good news for us by telling us how to respond in these moments:

- Trust in the Lord and do what is good.

- Take delight in the Lord; He will give you your heart's desires.
- Commit your way to the Lord...

Listen to the hope that we are given:

**'...trust in Him, and He will act, making your righteousness shine like the dawn, your justice like the noonday.'**

God is working in our lives in ways we don't fully understand. We can put our hope in the fact that He is working all things for our good. God will raise us, just like He raised Jesus, with renewed faith and hope when we trust in Him.

### **Application**

Come to Jesus in prayer today and bring any situation that is overwhelming you to Him. As that situation comes to mind, pause and read through the verses in the bullet points above. Do this three times. After the third time, say the prayer below.

### **Prayer**

*Jesus, I put my trust in You today. I take delight in my relationship with You today. I commit my life to You today. Renew my faith today. Help me live by faith in these promises and not by my limited sight. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

## Notes





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