

## Victory Worship Center



### Daniel Fast Guide

We are so glad you have decided to participate in an extended time of prayer, fasting and personal devotion. There really is no better way to reset our spiritual compass and bring about refreshing in every area of our lives than through prayer and fasting.

#### **Fasting**

*\*Important Note: Fasting requires reasonable precautions. If you have any health concerns, please consult your physician prior to beginning your fast, especially if you are taking any medication, have a chronic condition, or are pregnant or nursing a baby.*

As you prepare to fast, it is important to choose a fasting plan that works for you. While this section provides some general information about different types of fasts, as well as some suggestions on how to create your own fasting plan, it is important to mention that there is nothing more inherently spiritual about one type of fast as opposed to another.

These are simply guidelines and suggestions on different things you can do. Do not let what you eat or do not eat become the focus of your fast. Keep the main thing the main thing, which is drawing closer to God. Remember, this is a time to disconnect enough from your regular patterns and habits in order to connect more closely to God. Here are a few tips to keep in mind before getting started:

#### **The Daniel Fast**

The Daniel fast is a great model to follow and one that is extremely effective for spiritual focus, bodily discipline, and purification of the body and soul. It is probably one of the most commonly referred-to fasts; however, within the Daniel fast there is room for broad interpretation. In the book of Daniel we find two different times where the prophet Daniel fasted.

Daniel 1 states that he only ate vegetables and water, and in Daniel 10, while the passage does not give a specific list of foods that Daniel ate, it does state that he ate no rich (or choice) foods, as well as no meat or wine. So based on these two verses, we can see that either of these, or combinations of the two, constitute a Daniel fast.

Again, it is important to mention that there is nothing inherently spiritual about one type of fast as opposed to another. The foundation of the Daniel fast is fruits and vegetables. Some starchy vegetables and dairy could be included, but that depends on the individual. Your goal should be to seek God in prayer about this and follow what the Holy Spirit leads you to do. Just remember: find your personal Fast Zone.

## **Day 1 - Devotional Let God Build It.**

- Psalms 127:1

“Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain.” Psalms

Except God build the house, you’ll labor in vain. Let God build your house. Let God build your family. Let God build your career. Let God build every aspect of your life. Choose to let God build it. Whatever “it” is, choose to engage God. Choose to let God lead and direct your pathway. Follow His Word. Follow His plan. Follow what God has declared for your life.

If you are unsure as to what’s God’s plan or purpose for your life — seek Him and He will reveal your purpose. God will disclose why you were created. When you seek God, He will unpack why you were born for such a time as this. Your creation and planting was not by happenstance. You were created on purpose. You were planted in time, by God, for His pleasure. It pleased God to plant you here in the Earth. You are not a mistake. You are not a failure. You are not a mistake. God planted you in this span of time to give Him Glory. You are unique. You are His True Treasure. You are His Own.

Let God give you the Blueprint. He is the Blueprint. His Word is the Way. He is the Way. Choose to surrender to His Way of doing things and your feet will not slip. Let God navigate your course. Let God navigate your ship. Your ship is in His Hands. Your heart is in His Hands. Your destiny is in His Hands. He crafted you and created every gift that you possess. Give your gifts back to God. Surrender your hands to Him. Surrender your heart to Him. Surrender your work ethic to Him. Let God lead your path.

**Bible Reading Plan:** Psalms 1-2

**Prayer Focus:** As we begin this time of prayer & fasting, let’s turn our hearts toward God. Make a commitment to seek Him daily. Pray that your love for Christ will be increased and your passion for Him will be reignited over the next fourteen days.

## **Day 2 Devotional Author And Finisher.**

This day's reading

- [Hebrews 12:2](#)
- [Hebrews 11:3](#)

Jesus is the Author and Finisher of your faith. He crafted and formed every aspect of you. He's planted every gift inside of you. Your gifts, talents, and abilities are from God. He is the Author and Finisher of every aspect of your life. Go to the Builder, the One who created you, and submit your gifts, time, and talent to Him. He is the Orchestrator and Architect of your faith. Build with God.

Hebrews

You were placed here by God on purpose. He is the Creator of Heaven and Earth, He is the Creator of every age — He created you. Go to the One who formed every aspect of your life. God created you on purpose. Build according to His purpose. Seek God and build with Him. Let God order your steps.

**Prayer Focus:** In this time of fasting, what is your mind tuned to? What distractions do you need to remove so that you can focus on God? Prepare your heart to hear the voice of God, and ask Him to help you remove distractions that keep you from focusing on Him & hearing His voice clearly.

### **Day 3 Devotional The Earth Is His.**

- Psalms 24:1
- Proverbs 21:1

Build after His Pattern. Build after what God commands you to build. Let God build your house. Lead with God. Build with God. Construct with God. Let God order your steps. Let God establish your path. The Earth belongs to God and every process in it. Go to the One who holds the world in His hands. He holds Favor in His Hands. He holds Power in His Hands. He holds your future in His Hands.

#### Proverbs

The whole Earth belongs to God including kings, processes, resources, favor, wisdom, and insight. Seek God. Let God guide your business plan. Let God lead your home. Let God breathe on you. Submit to His Voice. Submit and surrender to His Plan. Let God breathe on the work of your hands.

**If you have not accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, or if you have fallen away from Him, simply say this prayer:**

Dear Heavenly Father, in the Name of Jesus, I repent of my sin. I turn to You. Father, I receive Your Son, Jesus Christ, as my Lord and Savior. I believe that Jesus Christ died and rose just for me.

I believe that His Blood washes me and cleanses me from all unrighteousness. Father, in You, I am set free. Father, through the Blood of your Son, Jesus Christ my past is history and my future is bright.

Father, In You, I am made new. Father, in You, I am complete. Father, in You, I am made whole. Father, in You, I am restored. Father, I surrender every area of my life to You now and forever. In Jesus Name. Amen.

We hope this Plan encouraged you.

**Prayer Focus:** Are there areas in your life where you've been allowing your flesh to be dominant? What areas do you need to crucify the flesh in?

## Day 4 Devotional - What is the power of affirmation?

- [Job 4:4](#)
- [Ephesians 4:29](#)

I love the word “affirm.” It feels like I’ve discovered the secret power of affirmation. Affirmation is the practice of building others up with words and actions. To affirm others is to make them firm. The Bible has a lot to say about this practice. “*Your words have upheld him who was stumbling, And you have strengthened the feeble knees;*” (Job 4:4, NKJV).

Do you know the secret of affirmation? Let’s face it—our society does not practice the art of encouragement. The world tends to focus on the negative, the absurd, and the idiotic. Reading the daily newspapers has become an exercise in frustration and disappointment for me.

How do you feel after you read the daily newspapers or posts on social media? I’ve had the habit of catching up on local, national, and world news for many years, but it seems like there has been a shift. When I was young, newscasters and reporters would, in fact, report the news. Opinions could generally be found in a small column. But I’ve been disappointed with the loss of objective, neutral, and well-balanced reporting. In spite of this trend I’ve observed, I’ve decided to be different. I’ve dedicated my life to affirming others every day. I call it putting change in people’s pockets. The Bible admonishes us to “*Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.*” (Ephesians 4:29, NKJV)

Whom do you encourage every day, and who encourages you? I’m convinced God wants you to affirm people as a daily discipline.

**Fasting Tip:** On the third day of your fast, you may experience a headache, flu-like achiness, intense sugar or carb cravings, slight nausea, or fatigue. This is a normal response to detoxification, so make sure you allow yourself some time to rest and keep your fluid intake high. The fourth day is usually much better physically, so hang in there!

**Prayer Focus:** What do you need faith to believe for? Align yourself with God’s Word and will during the fast. Release your unbelief. Pray with confidence, knowing “nothing will be impossible” for you.

## Day 5 Devotional The power of honor

- Deuteronomy 5:16
- Ephesians 4:31

All of us have read the 10 Commandments. They are amazing and frightening at the same time. These are not recommendations—these are God’s commandments. Pretty important, right? The part that really gets to me at an emotional level is “*Honor your father and your mother, as the Lord your God has commanded you, that your days may be long, and that it may be well with you in the land which the Lord your God is giving you.*” (Deuteronomy 5:16, NKJV) Wow! It’s called the first commandment with a blessing. If we honor our moms and dads, life will be good to us.

Have you honored your mom and dad?

I have to confess I didn’t honor my dad for many years. I felt hurt, abandoned, and rejected by him. It seemed like I could never please him. Although I truly wanted his love and approval, I grew to resent and even hate him. That internal hurt, bitterness, and resentment eventually caused me to lapse into drug and alcohol abuse and depression.

In my counseling experience, I’ve discovered that unresolved feelings usually cause tremendous damage to the carrier of the offense. In my case, I felt suicidal because of the rejection I felt from my dad and the bitterness that overwhelmed me.

Have you ever felt hurt by your parents? Do you have unresolved anger towards them? Has it caused you to dishonor them? The Bible encourages us to “*Get rid of all bitterness, rage, and anger, brawling, and slander, along with every form of malice.*” (Ephesians 4:31, NIV)

Anger and bitterness will always backfire on you. I encourage you to forgive others, release them, and let go of the pain. Forgiveness is for you and not for the people who hurt you.

Honoring your mom and dad is not for their benefit really—it’s for yours. Ask God to help you find ways to honor your parents in spite of their behavior or past failures because you are a miracle.

**Prayer Focus:** What has called you to do? What are the next steps God is calling you to take in your life?

### **Day 6 Devotional Day - With All Respect**

- 1 Samuel 24

Jesus himself gave the best definition of respect in the Golden Rule. Respect is treating others the way you would want to be treated, speaking to others the way you would want to be spoken to, seeing others the way you would want others to see you, and then acting towards them accordingly.

That definition is on display in an incident that took place thousands of years ago between Saul, a king and David, the one who would be the next king. It is a great object lesson of what respect looks like especially in circumstances when disrespect might be both expected and defended

David had pulled off the greatest upset of all history when he defeated a giant named Goliath, but it brought him more headaches than honor. This would-be king had every reason not just to disrespect Saul but to destroy him and bring his kingdom to an end. But David declined, and his story serves as one of history's great portraits of character.

David lived in a kingdom. He was under kingdom authority. Saul, as the king, was the embodiment of that principle of authority. David respected the principle of authority. Saul was still the king. David was still under his authority. What set David apart from his men was he understood that what is right is not what we think is right or what others feel is right, but what God says is right.

David knew that one day he would be king and he would be in that position. If David wanted to get the respect the position deserved, then he had to give the respect the position deserved. David showed great self-respect by respecting Saul.

When David looked at Saul, he didn't primarily see the king on the throne, he saw the God who put him there. When David bowed down before Saul, he wasn't bowing down to the person on the throne; he was bowing down to the power behind the throne.

Just because Saul was out of God's will in the way he treated David did not mean that David would get out of God's will by the way he treated Saul. God had anointed and appointed Saul. David not only respected the principle of authority and the position of authority, but above all he respected the power behind all authority, which is God.

Respect has to begin with us. We cannot control how others treat us, but we can control how we treat others.

**Prayer Focus:** As you come to the end of this first week, continue to pray fervently for the main areas of concern in your life. Trust God to bring an answer as you journal your thoughts and inspirations through this time.

## **Day 7 Devotional Did you throw out the garbage?**

- This day's reading
  - Ephesians 4:31
  - Matthew 6:14

Have you ever moved from one house to another? It's painful, isn't it? Sore backs, tense nerves, stress, and a few broken pieces of glass are common consequences of the packing and moving adventure. My wife and I have done it over a dozen times in decades of marriage.

One particularly strenuous move that comes to mind is a perfect illustration of the principle we will highlight today: **the power of forgiveness**. Forgiveness is like throwing out your garbage daily instead of carrying it with you.

On this particular move, by mistake, I packed a large bag of garbage in the moving truck instead of throwing it away. By the time we unpacked the truck, it smelled horrible. It stunk because we packed garbage and brought it with us.

Many people I've counseled have a bad habit of carrying old relational garbage into new relationships. The Bible commands us to "*Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice.*" (Ephesians 4:31, NIV)

Forgiveness is the number one tool to ensure you no longer sabotage your future because of your past. Old hurts, disappointments, abuses, and pain need to be thrown out by the power of forgiveness. Did you know that forgiveness is a process?



There are three stages in the process of forgiveness. Let's start with the first step today.

Step one, the **ACT** of forgiveness, is so powerful. During this stage, you will need to speak it out: "Lord, I forgive my mom, dad, uncle, or..." When those words come out of your mouth, your brain will hear your declaration, and your feelings will be released. The spiritual impact of these words is immeasurable. Jesus said, "*For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.*" (Matthew 6:14, NIV)

Forgiveness is for you. It helps you take out the garbage. You need to do this because you are a miracle.

**Prayer Focus:** How does understanding the Forgiveness change the focus of your fast? As you pray and seek after God, let His voice be the loudest voice you hear.

### **Day 8 Devotional - Have you discovered the power of your words?**

- [Proverbs 18:21](#)
- [John 6:63](#)
- [Galatians 6:7](#)

Have you discovered the power of your words? The Bible says, "*The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit.*" (Proverbs 18:21, NIV)

Words can destroy a marriage, business, family, or career. Words can also give life. The Bible also says, "*The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you—they are full of the Spirit and life.*" (John 6:63, NIV)

During this series on relationships, I've tried to demonstrate the power you have to build healthy relationships. You are not a victim of some invisible force that has doomed your ability to build strong and rewarding relationships.

My relationship with my dad was not very good. I often felt rejected, hurt, and abandoned by my dad. He was a workaholic who suffered from the damage of World War II and interesting family dynamics. I never realized until I was 32 years old that my dad really did love me, but he didn't have the tools to show it. That realization had a huge impact on my self-esteem and confidence. I decided I would no longer feel like a victim, but I would start changing things with my words and love.

Have you started the journey of **empowerment**? Do you know that although you may have been victimized, you are not a victim anymore? It's time to take back your life with your words. Think of yourself as a dispenser and not a consumer. Get filled up every day with the Word of God, the Spirit, and your own self-talk, then pour out to others. You'll be surprised by the changes.

God's Word cannot be denied: "*Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.*" (Galatians 6:7, NIV) Every word that comes out of your mouth should be kind, encouraging, insightful, and Spirit-led. Your mouth should be full of honey, and you will see a whole new group of people attracted to it.

Because you are a miracle.

**Prayer Focus:** It's so easy to put our dreams or promises from God on a pedestal & make them an idol in our lives. Ask yourself this question: if \_\_\_\_\_ didn't happen, would it negatively impact my relationship with God? If I never saw \_\_\_\_\_ dream come to pass, would I still love God with the same passion I do today?

### **Day 9 Devotional - It's time to encourage!**

- Romans 8:18
- Romans 8:28

Today, I pray you will be encouraged and strengthened by God's matchless love. No matter the circumstances in your life, His love can bring the breakthrough!

Have you noticed that many people are suffering from discouragement? This pandemic, the shutdowns, the lockdowns, and social upheavals have taken a bite out of our lives. I've got to admit it's caused stress in my own life, and I've had to take drastic measures to adapt, adjust, and change.

Have you battled discouragement? Have you suffered setbacks? I've met so many people who have lost their jobs, savings, and businesses. I've known others who could not visit their dying friends or parents in the hospital. Others have been forced to homeschool their children.

The stories of pain, death, loss, and suffering have grown very intense, but I've seen another movement at work in our society: Jesus. It seems like Christians are waking up. They are getting more involved in government, politics, justice issues, business, and needs in their communities.

It's actually quite exciting. Paul the Apostle discovered this same trend in his life: *"I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us."* (Romans 8:18, NIV) Paul eventually concluded, *"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."* (Romans 8:28, NIV)

I'm writing these words to bring you more courage. I'm **(en)couraging** you with Bible verses, empathy, and tons of love. Be filled with courage to plow your way through these difficult days. Yes, they are difficult for so many people, but you will find the diamonds in the dark places. Hand all the frustration, loss, and pain to God and watch Him bring good out of it. God will work all the garbage for good. His Word affirms it, and it's up to you to believe it.

**Prayer Focus:** What is God saying to you TODAY?

### **Day 10 Devotional Forgive and forget**

- Psalms 51:7-10
- Matthew 18:21-22

Did you know it's scientifically impossible to forget? Our minds remember everything we experience, but we can only recall those memories that have a strong emotional component. I don't imagine you can recall what you did twenty years ago on a Tuesday unless, of course, you had a massive car accident or an earthquake destroyed your house. We only recall what has significant meaning to us.

You probably remember your school graduations, sports awards, weddings, the birth of a child, or a big promotion. You can recall these great memories because they are so positive. But there are other events that elicit more negative emotions, like the death of a loved one, a divorce, accidents, or physical or sexual abuse. We remember these experiences because they have strong emotions connected to them. They are a lot like bombs filled with gunpowder. They can be triggered by a small event like a match.

The psalmist David once said, “*Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.*” (Psalms 51:10, NIV) If you forgive, the gunpowder is removed, and you will no longer be triggered. The infection is removed, and the wound is now able to be healed. Like David, let’s cry out to God while we enter the second stage of forgiveness: “*Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.*” (Psalms 51:7, NIV)

The second stage is the **Process**. It’s a lot like the first step, but you must repeat it over and over again until you reach the third stage. Jesus taught Peter the importance of this principle: “*Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, ‘Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?’ Jesus answered, ‘I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.’*” (Matthew 18:21-22, NIV)

Sometimes it just takes one choice and declaration, but the deepest hurts take time. In regards to my dad, I found myself in and out of the process many times. My wounds were so deep that I would get in the habit of forgiving again and again.

Start the journey of forgiveness today. It may take a while, but give yourself permission to reach the process stage. Because you are worth it and don’t forget—you are a miracle.

**Prayer Focus:** As you’re spending time with God today, is there anyone you’ve realized that you need to forgive? Ask God to help you to release the hold they have on your heart.

## **Day 11 Devotional - Live a Life of Integrity**

- Daniel 6

One of the greatest pictures of integrity in history is found in the Old Testament account of Daniel. Anyone familiar with the Bible knows about Daniel and the lions’ den. But what is important about this story is not Daniel being thrown into the lions’ den, it is what happened before Daniel was thrown into the den and why he was thrown in.

Daniel had options. He could have played it safe and just quit praying for thirty days. He could have closed his windows and prayed in secret. He could have decided to take a month-long sabbatical and gone somewhere else. He could have lain in bed at night and prayed silently. But integrity never goes on vacation. Integrity never takes a break. Integrity never calls a time-out. Integrity never takes a pass

You may not realize it, but your integrity is most likely tested in some way every day—from filling out an expense report to filling out your income taxes, from kicking your golf ball back onto the fairway to cheating on your spouse. Whether you realize it or not, rare will be the day that somehow, somehow your integrity is not tested.

So first we need to decide to be all-in on integrity every day in every way. It is amazing how making just one major decision—that you will always do what is right, speak what is right, and stand up for what is right—will take care of all the other decisions.

Nobody can ever take your integrity away. They may steal your money, your job, your fame, your reputation, and even your life, but they cannot take your integrity. Only you can throw that away, so when it comes to your integrity, never give in, never give out, and, never give up.

Second, we need to determine that our integrity is not for sale. It may cost you your job; it may cost you your inheritance; it may cost you your freedom; it may cost you a friendship. But even if the price is your life, never take the sign off your integrity that says “Not for sale.”

Third, we must dedicate ourselves to maintaining our integrity regardless of the cost. If you do a cost-benefit analysis on integrity, the benefits far outweigh the costs. Integrity means being able to live with the most important person in your life with perfect peace and contentment—yourself.

**Prayer Focus:** Are there specific requests or breakthroughs you need in your life? Take time to boldly bring those requests before God.

## **Day 12 Devotional - Let's Get Honest**

- [1 Samuel 3](#)
- [1 Samuel 12](#)

Samuel is one of the unsung heroes of Scripture who deserves a higher profile than he often gets.

Samuel earned a reputation for speaking the truth no matter what. He would always relay exactly what God told him. Even as a thirteen-year-old, he is officially recognized as a prophet by the nation and would be forever known as a truth-teller.

Samuel loves his people enough to tell them the truth. Nothing is better, greater, and higher than ending whatever calling God has given you and realizing that your lasting reputation is that you spoke the truth with your talk and you showed truth with your walk.

Samuel forced the nation to admit that he tells nothing but the truth—that they can believe everything he says. So he is not going to stop now because the nation needs to hear a word of truth that they will not like but that they need to hear.

Do you love the people around you enough to tell them the truth? The truth of the gospel is the most important truth you can share with anyone. Jesus came to earth to tell us the truth—that we are sinners in need of a Savior—and he died for us and rose from the dead so we would tell the truth about him. Take a moment right now to jot down the name of one person in your circle of influence who needs to hear the truth about Jesus. Make a commitment today to share the truth of the gospel with that person this year.

Let's get honest about being dishonest. Sometimes lying is easier. If you are determined to rededicate yourself to speaking nothing but the truth, you have to be honest in all of your life. This will take several steps. First, be honest with yourself. Be honest with others. Be honest regardless of the actions of others or the circumstances around you. The greatest reason and motivation to be honest is that you must be honest with God.

Beginning today, do yourself a favor—tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. That is guaranteed to gain God's approval and will give you a clear conscience to keep your past from coming back to bite you.

**Prayer Focus:** Think back to those people you realized yesterday you needed to forgive & take time to pray for them, asking God to bless them and their families.

### **Day 13 Devotional - God Seeks People of Humility**

- [Luke 1:26-38](#)
- [Isaiah 66:2](#)

The mirror never lies, and what you feel when you look into it will tell you a lot about the person staring back at you. If a person of good character is in the mirror, then you will be humble about it. Nothing will take you lower than pride, and nothing will lift you higher than humility

The most famous woman in the Bible displays humility in sparkling technicolor. Practically the whole world knows Mary by her first name. Scripture itself says that she is the most blessed and the most highly favored by God of all the women in the Bible and really, in history. Even today, she is an almost universally admired woman by billions of people around the world.

The first time we meet Mary, an angel of God is speaking to her, a young girl living in a poverty-stricken region engaged to a lowly carpenter. If you had walked by this girl, you would not have even given her a second look.

Here was a nobody girl, living in a nothing town, in the middle of nowhere. But she comes face to face with an angel.

Why did God's Son come into this world through a pregnant, unwed teenage girl in a culture that honored virginity and shamed pregnancy outside of marriage? Why would Jesus be born not in the comfortable surroundings of a royal palace, but in a feeding trough in a stable?

Because God values humility. God disdains the proud, but he delights in the humble. Isaiah 66:2 says, "These are the ones I look on with favor; those who are humble and contrite in spirit."

Mary would have never chosen herself to mother God's Son, and she can't believe that God has. Here, we see a portrait of her humility. Humility is not just not thinking higher of yourself than you should; it is not thinking of yourself at all.

Mary did become the mother of the Messiah. But being the mother of the greatest man who ever lived did not go to her head; it went to her heart.

People who get God's attention are not the haughty; they are the humble. They are not the people who see how high they can stand, but how low they can stoop. It is not the people who push to the front of the line, but those who willingly go to the back. God seeks people of humility.

**Prayer Focus:** Ask God to make His grace more real to you today, that you would experience and walk in greater revelations of His grace than ever before.

## **Day 14 Devotional - Loyal to a Fault**

- Ruth 1

Ruth is both a book in the Bible and the name of its main character, but we would have heard of neither if not for her incredible loyalty. Ruth is one of the greatest love stories in history. Movies, novels, and books have been written about this beautiful story, but there would have been no love story had it not been for Ruth's loyalty. What comes as an even greater shock is that the whole story begins with and is built around the loyalty of a daughter-in-law to her mother-in-law.

In her example of loyalty to Naomi, Ruth show us four ways we should manifest loyalty in our lives. Loyalty to our family, our friends, our faithfulness, and our faith.

Because of Ruth's loyalty in all these areas, God used her to bear a son and also change the history of the world. The son she bore was Obed. He became the grandfather of David, who became the ancestor of Jesus. But that is not all. When you go to the genealogy of Jesus, four women are mentioned in the family tree: Tamar (guilty of incest), Rahab (a prostitute), Bathsheba (an adulteress), and Ruth (a Moabite).

Our God is a loyal God. Our God will never leave us or forsake us. We owe it to him to be loyal to him and his church in worship and service. When we needed a Savior to die for us, Jesus said, "I'll be there."

Loyalty demands that we determine daily to be three things.

1. Loyalty demands that we be candid. Loyalty is not blind. Loyalty and honesty are joined at the hip.
2. Loyalty demands that we be consistent. Private loyalty without public loyalty is cowardly hypocrisy.
3. Loyalty demands that we be courageous. Nothing takes more boldness and courage than to be willing to stand by your friends when others have abandoned them—to go against the flow, to refuse to pile on or jump on the bandwagon of criticism and condemnation just because everybody else is.

If we are known as someone whose heart will always say, "I'll be there" when needed, the kind of person who will walk into a house when the whole world has walked out, we can rest assured we will leave behind a monument of honor that will never be forgotten.

**Prayer Focus:** Ask God if there are any old habits, mindsets, or attitudes that He'd like to help you declutter from your life. Pray as David did in Psalm 51:10-12 that God will cleanse your heart, renew your spirit, and restore the joy of your salvation.