

NOVEMBER 2022



The background image is a black and white photograph of a church service. A band is performing on a stage, and a large cross is visible in the background. The image is partially obscured by a teal geometric overlay on the left and bottom. The text '21 DAYS OF PRAYER' is prominently displayed in white, bold, sans-serif font, underlined. To the right of the text is a registered trademark symbol (®). Below the title is the website address 'REFINERYOHIO.COM/21DAYS'.

# 21 DAYS OF PRAYER

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# PRAYER IS ESSENTIAL IN THE LIFE OF THE INDIVIDUAL WHO FOLLOWS AFTER JESUS.

Prayer is essential in the life of the individual who follows after Jesus. Prayer is essential for families and churches who long to be centered in Christ. As such, we're inviting everyone who calls The Refinery their church home to participate in 21 Days of Prayer.

The concept is simple. Each day, we invite you to join us in prayer as we journey through the first 5 books of the Bible, also known as the Pentateuch.

In the Pentateuch you'll find a people in tension with their direction, wavering in what path they think will lead to life. I think we will find that these tensions can relate to our own path as we seek to walk with Jesus. Prayer helps to give us that direction.

As a church, we are committed to cultivating the spiritual disciplines in our lives, and this is one way we can grow in our engagement with scripture and prayer. This is a great way to grow as people who have made the decision to love and follow Jesus for life.



# NOVEMBER 1

## Read Genesis 1

**Chapter Spotlight:** Genesis 1:28a, "God blessed them and said, 'Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it.'"

**Prayer Prompt:** The Hebrew word for "subdue" is Kabash, which means to "bring into bondage." In other words, Kabash means to put things in their proper place. Ask God what it is you need to Kabash. Is there anything out of place holding you back from growing in grace?

# NOVEMBER 2

## Read Genesis 3

**Chapter Spotlight:** Genesis 3:8, "Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man, 'Where are you?'"

**Prayer Prompt:** Shame is one of the enemy's favorite tactics to use against us because shame roots itself in lies. As a Refinery team we value believing the best about others, but shame causes us to see the worst in others and ourselves. Invite God into the spaces and places of your life where shame is keeping a grip. If you know of others who are wrestling with shame, pray for God's grace to find them as well.

# NOVEMBER 3

## Read Genesis 5

**Chapter Spotlight:** Genesis 5:23-24, "Altogether Enoch lived a total of 365 years, Enoch walked faithfully with God; then he was no more because God took him away."

**Prayer Prompt:** The test of someone's faith and character isn't what's done in the exceptional moments, but the ordinary times, when there is nothing exciting. Our attitude toward the ordinary influences our stride with God. Where is it God wants you to grow in your walk with Him?



# NOVEMBER 4

## Read Genesis 22

**Chapter Spotlight:** Genesis 22:1-2, "God said to Abraham, 'Abraham!' 'Here I am,' he replied. Then God said, 'take your son, your only son, whom you love..."

**Prayer Prompt:** Abraham, requested by God to sacrifice his own son, doesn't hesitate. This act of obedience from Abraham toward his son foreshadows God sending His son, Jesus. It's extraordinary how we debate with God, even when we know what is right. I've done this over much more trivial matters. A "here I am" attitude doesn't leave room for delay, just obedience. What next step are you delaying when God wants you to say "here I am?"

# NOVEMBER 5

## Read Genesis 24

**Chapter Spotlight:** Genesis 24:25-27, "[Bethuel] added, 'We have plenty of straw and fodder, as well as room for you to spend the night.' Then the man bowed down and worshiped the Lord, saying 'Praise be to the Lord, the God of my master Abraham, who has not abandoned his kindness and faithfulness to my master. As for me, the Lord has led me on the journey to the house of my master's relatives.'"

**Prayer Prompt:** Abraham's senior servant is set on a mission to find his son, Isaac, a wife. Reading chapter 24 you find a servant who brings every errand, conversation, and moment of the day before the Lord. Nothing is not the Lord's in his eyes. Before he departs, when he arrives, and when he succeeds, the Lord receives the glory. His whole life is an act of worship. Ask God to help you see that all you do can be an act of worship and a way to glorify God.



**Ask God for  
understanding  
of the scripture.**



## NOVEMBER 6

### Read Genesis 39

**Chapter Spotlight:** Genesis 39:20-21, "Joseph's master took him and put him in prison, the place where the king's prisoners were confined. But while Joseph was there in the prison, the Lord was with him; he showed him kindness and granted him favor in the eyes of the prison warden."

**Prayer Prompt:** Commitment to Christlike character will always win the day. Culturally it can appear that integrity is running dry, but Joseph's story reminds us that the Lord honors faithfulness. Are there areas of your life and work where your character feels tested or vulnerable? Invite God and those you trust into those spaces. Ask God for strength and steadiness only He can provide. It's the discipline we practice in small moments that prepare us for the larger ones.

## NOVEMBER 7

### Read Exodus 3

**Chapter Spotlight:** Exodus 3:12, "And God said, 'I will be with you. And this will be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God on this mountain.'"

**Prayer Prompt:** I love worshiping God on the mountain top. I can't help but think of Baptism Sundays at The Refinery when talking about mountain top worship. While experiencing these spiritual high points can be catalytic for our faith, I find that God cares about who we are with more than where we are. Why? Because being with God will give direction to where we go. If our focus is on being with God, then it doesn't matter if we are 40 years in the desert or on top of a mountain, we can worship Him. Wherever you are, worship God today as your time of prayer.



# NOVEMBER 8

## Read Exodus 18

**Chapter Spotlight:** Exodus 18:23, "If you do this, God will direct you, you will be able to endure, and all these people also will go to their place in peace."

**Prayer Prompt:** God places people in our life to speak grace and truth to us. Moses, who could have commanded his own way as the leader, chose to lean into his community and listen to what was needed. Thank God today for the people He has put in your life. Ask God if, like Moses, you need to have open ears to others' advice. Ask God, if like Jethro, you need to speak life toward those around you.

# NOVEMBER 9

## Read Exodus 31

**Chapter Spotlight:** Exodus 31:12-13, "Then the Lord said to Moses, 'Say to the Israelites, "You must observe my Sabbaths. This will be a sign between me and you for the generations to come, so you may know that I am the Lord, who makes you holy.'""

**Prayer Prompt:** Sabbath, a day set aside to refrain from toil, serves as our reminder that the world doesn't revolve around us. More so, it serves as our reminder that it's "the Lord, who makes [us] holy." While we think we can't afford to take a day off, Scripture teaches us we can't afford not to. God invites us to slow down and rest. Put your phone on "do not disturb." Give yourself permission to slow down, cast your anxiety on Him, and sit in God's presence.

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# NOVEMBER 10

## Read Exodus 33

**Chapter Spotlight:** Exodus 33:12-13, "Moses said to the Lord, 'You have been telling me, "Lead these people," but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. You have said, "I know you by name and you have found favor with me." If you are pleased with me, teach me your ways so I may know you and continue to find favor with you. Remember that this nation is your people.'"

**Prayer Prompt:** One of the most dangerous prayers we can pray are the words that Moses prays here, "teach me your ways...". His ways are higher than our ways and His thoughts are higher than our thoughts. Inviting God to teach us will take us deeper in our faith. Make this your prayer today, being open to what and how God wants to teach you.

# NOVEMBER 11

## Read Leviticus 1

**Chapter Spotlight:** Leviticus 1:7, "The sons of Aaron the priest are to put fire on the altar and arrange wood on the fire."

**Prayer Prompt:** We all arrange our lives in a particular way. Looking at the way we arrange things like schedules, resources, and finances can help us see what we ultimately hope for. What does the arrangement of your life say about your values? Ask God what He desires to be rearranged in your life.

# NOVEMBER 12

## Read Leviticus 19

**Chapter Spotlight:** Leviticus 19:18, "Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against anyone among your people, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the Lord."

**Prayer Prompt:** Revenge is idolized in our culture. We see this when sports stars face off against their former teams, we label it a "revenge game" to generate more excitement around it. Loving our neighbor has no room for revenge because it doesn't hold on to past hurt, but it holds on to hope in Jesus. Who in your life do you find it difficult to love? Pray for them today, inviting God to be with them and for His grace to abound more and more in their lives."



# NOVEMBER 13

## Read Leviticus 23

**Chapter Spotlight:** Leviticus 23:3, "There are six days when you may work, but the seventh day is a day of sabbath rest, a day of sacred assembly. You are not to do any work; wherever you live, it is a sabbath to the Lord."

**Prayer Prompt:** A few days ago we invited you to sabbath, but this can be a difficult discipline to establish. One way the Lord's people attempted to keep this discipline was through festivals. The Lord tells Moses to appoint certain festivals the Israelites are to keep, #1 being the sabbath. Six days of work, one day of rest. When's the last time you rested, said no to producing and hurrying, and said yes to God's presence? Look ahead at your calendar today or tomorrow and block out time for rest. Make it a meeting so nothing can interfere. This meeting is meant for pause, a chance to find rest in the Lord.

"...wherever you live, it is a sabbath to the Lord."

# NOVEMBER 14

## Read Numbers 6

**Chapter Spotlight:** Numbers 6:24-26

"The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace."

**Prayer Prompt:** Moses' face shined so bright after his encounter with God on Mount Sinai that he had to wear a face covering. This blessing that God instructs Moses to give to Aaron and his family is more than a kind gesture. It's an invitation from the Lord to sit at His feet in His presence. When we do our lives will shine, reflecting our time with God. In this time of prayer, sit in God's presence. Withhold your request and allow yourself to silently wait upon the Lord.



# NOVEMBER 15

## Read Numbers 14

**Chapter Spotlight:** Numbers 14:18, "The Lord is slow to anger, abounding in love and forgiving sin and rebellion. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation."

**Prayer Prompt:** God is abounding in forgiveness and grace, but our actions do have consequences. However, there is no sin, or rebellion, or mistake that God's grace cannot handle and forgive. Any course can be redirected down a path toward Jesus. Whether it be you, your children, a friend, or a co-worker, pray for the person who is lost. Your influence, prayers and grace toward them can help redirect their path.

# NOVEMBER 16

## Read Numbers 20

**Chapter Spotlight:** Numbers 20:8, "Take the staff, and you and your brother Aaron gather the assembly together. Speak to that rock before their eyes and it will pour out its water. You will bring water out of the rock for the community so they and their livestock can drink."

**Prayer Prompt:** When we feel like we are in a desert, God always has a way of providing. To one degree or another most can say they have experienced "dry seasons" as it relates to faith. Who in your life has been a source of living water for your spiritual growth or who is someone that came through for you in a very practical way at a difficult time in your life? Send them a text today saying thank you, and pray for them, thanking God for the role they've played in your life.

*Note: It should be pointed out that Moses and Aaron didn't obey God exactly. They were to speak to the rock and God would bring forth water. Instead, Moses struck the rock as had happened at another place (Ex. 17:6). God still brought forth water for the people, but this disobedience did shorten Moses and Aaron's time of leadership of the people. When God speaks with clarity, we are to respond as He leads. We are not to reinterpret His instructions as it would seem best to us.*



# NOVEMBER 17

## Read Numbers 22

**Chapter Spotlight:** Numbers 22:30-31, "The donkey said to Balaam, 'Am I not your own donkey, which you have always ridden, to this day? Have I been in the habit of doing this to you?' 'No,' he said. Then the Lord opened Balaam's eyes, and he saw the angel of the Lord standing in the road with his sword drawn. So he bowed low and fell facedown."

**Prayer Prompt:** God will go to any length to get our attention to turn back toward him. God wants us to walk with Him with eyes open. Historically, the eyes were believed to be the gateway to our souls. Is your soul open to the prompting of God's spirit? Invite God to open your eyes so we too can avoid *a reckless path* and keep walking toward life in Jesus.

# NOVEMBER 18

## Read Deuteronomy 1

**Chapter Spotlight:** Deuteronomy 1:6-7a, "The Lord our God said to us at Horeb, 'You have stayed long enough at this mountain. Break camp and advance into the hill country of the Amorites;...'"

**Prayer Prompt:** Often the most difficult space in our life to be obedient is not when God invites us to take hold of something new, but to let go of something old. In prayer today, go before God with both hands out, one palm facing the ceiling and one facing the floor. The palm facing the floor represents what you are willing to let go of, allowing it to fall. The palm facing up represents what you are willing to receive from God. Ask God in prayer, what is it you want me to let go of and what is it you want me to take hold of?

# NOVEMBER 19

## Read Deuteronomy 6

**Chapter Spotlight:** Deuteronomy 6:4, "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one."

**Prayer Prompt:** The Lord is one. Unity is central to the people of God, not to be confused with uniformity. Divisive words and grudges have no place in our invitation to love. Ask God to fill you with a spirit of unity today. Unity in your marriage, work place, family, and lifegroup is possible when God's love leads the way.



# NOVEMBER 20

## Read Deuteronomy 13

**Chapter Spotlight:** Deuteronomy 13:4, "It is the Lord your God you must follow, and him you must revere. Keep his commands and obey him; serve him and hold fast to him."

**Prayer Prompt:** Obedience in our walk flows out of reverence to our Creator, not obligation. Humbling ourselves before God is always the first step in obedience. As you continue your walk with Jesus today, ask God to help you walk with humility.

# NOVEMBER 21

## Read Deuteronomy 20

**Chapter Spotlight:** Deuteronomy 20:4, "For the Lord your God is the one who goes with you to fight for you against your enemies to give you victory."

**Prayer Prompt:** While the verse is embedded in advice about literal war, I don't think it's inappropriate to use this verse as a lens for all battles against evil. The battles we face within relationships, mental health and anxiety, secret sins, addictions, anger, pride, greed, selfishness, etc.. It's easy for us to overcomplicate what God intended to be simple. God goes with us, God fights for us, and God gives us victory. The chapter begins with, "do not be afraid of them, because the Lord who brought you out of Egypt, will be with you." Reflect on where you've seen God move in your life before and invite God to do the same as you move ahead.

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**If you've not yet received Jesus yourself, take the time to do so now.**

**Simply pray this: "God, I give my heart and life to you. Forgive me of my sins, and help me to love and follow you for life."**

**If you prayed this, be sure to let a friend know as well as the staff at the church. Folks will want to celebrate with and come alongside you as you take the next steps in loving and following Jesus.**

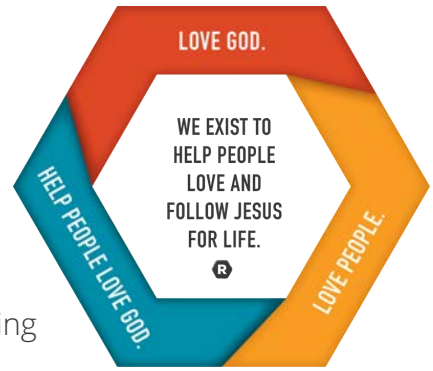
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# NEXT STEPS

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Our mission as a church is to help people love and follow Jesus for life. We do this by focusing, as a community, on three practices: Love God, Love People, Help People Love God. In setting out to accomplish anything of significance, it's important to have markers along the way to be sure we are traveling the right way in our journey or metrics to help us know if we're achieving what we set out to do. With this in mind, at The Refinery we have five commitments we invite each individual to consider making themselves so that they can grow in these three practices.



We believe that these are great measures and guides for helping us to love and follow Jesus for life. They are commitments that can help establish a rhythm of life centered in Christ.

## FIVE COMMITMENTS TO CHOOSE AND GROW IN

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### 01 — ACTIVELY WORSHIP

We actively worship through consistent engagement in worship services and through the rhythms of our daily lives.

- Am I putting Jesus first in my life each day?
- Am I making worship with my church family a priority?



### 02 — CULTIVATE THE SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES

Cultivating spiritual disciplines such as time in scripture, prayer, generosity, fasting, and rest are critical elements of loving and following Jesus for life.

- Am I regularly reading and reflecting on what the Bible has to say?
- Am I thanking God and asking for direction in my life?
- Am I giving generously to the church and to others?
- Am I practicing fasting as Jesus said we should do?
- Am I taking time for rest and remembering that God has called us to live from a place of rest?



## FIVE COMMITMENTS TO CHOOSE AND GROW IN

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### 03 — LIVE IN COMMUNITY

We are called to live in community! Real life change happens in the context of relationships.

- Am I engaged in a Lifegroup through The Refinery or some other form of spiritual accountability/relationship in my workplace or community?
- In my community, am I looking to know others and be known by them?



### 04 — INTENTIONALLY SERVE

We intentionally serve at the church, in our community, and around the world. God has shaped each of us with gifts and abilities to be used in service to others.

- Am I a part of a serving team at The Refinery?
- How am I investing in my community through service?
- Am I serving people around the world in some measurable way?



### 05 — INVEST & INVITE

Jesus calls Christians to “go and make disciples.” As a church, we desire that everyone would make the commitment to regularly invest in others and invite them into the story of the good news of the gospel of Jesus.

- Do the people I work with or live near know that I profess faith in Jesus?
- Do I know what the people I work with or live near believe when it comes to matters of faith?
- How can I regularly invite others to consider for themselves the truth of God?

**Have questions? Need to speak to a pastor?**  
**Email Pastor Jay at [jay@refineryohio.com](mailto:jay@refineryohio.com)**