
The
Mission

The
Unfolding
Story
of God's
Redemptive
Purpose

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*The Unfolding Story of
God's Redemptive Purpose*



EVERY NATION



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#ENFast2026

EveryNation.org/Fasting

The Mission

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Preparation for the Fast

Why Fast?

Fasting is a spiritual tool God uses to advance his kingdom, change the destiny of nations, spark revival, and bring breakthroughs in people's lives. Every Nation churches and campus ministries begin each year with five days of prayer and fasting to humble ourselves before God, consecrate ourselves to him for the upcoming year, and corporately agree for breakthroughs.

Jesus fasted.

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry.

Matthew 4:1-2

*And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and a report about him went out through all the surrounding country. **Luke 4:14***

Jesus knew he was going to need spiritual strength to fulfill his purposes. Fasting makes us spiritually strong and prepares us to do God's work.

Fasting is an act of humility and consecration.

*Then I proclaimed a fast there, at the river Ahava, that we might humble ourselves before our God, to seek from him a safe journey for ourselves, our children, and all our goods. **Ezra 8:21***

As we humble ourselves through prayer and fasting, we can receive God's answers to our prayers.

Fasting helps us become sensitive to the Holy Spirit.

While they were worshipping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” Acts 13:2

When we deny ourselves of natural cravings and worldly distractions, we become more sensitive to God’s voice, allowing us to better focus on God and submit to his will.

Fasting brings revival.

And your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to dwell in. Isaiah 58:12

Throughout history, God has brought revival and delivered nations from destruction in response to prayer and fasting. Fasting helps us persevere in prayer and intercession.

Fasting is healthy.

Fasting cleanses your digestive system from toxins. Doctors consider fasting a cure for certain allergies and diseases. The discipline of fasting helps break unhealthy addictions in our lives.

Planning Your Fast

Then Joshua said to the people, “Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you.” Joshua 3:5

Pray—Spend time reading the Bible before the fast. Ask the Holy Spirit for guidance in your prayers. On pages 7-9, write down your faith goals and specific prayer requests for your family, friends, church, and nation.

Commit—Pray about the kind of fast you will undertake and commit to it ahead of time. Record your plan on page 5. Ask God for grace to help you follow through with your decisions.

Act—Start eating smaller portions a few days before the fast. Avoid food high in sugar and fat. Plan to limit physical and social activities for the week of the fast. Ask someone to be your prayer partner throughout the fast and have that person sign page 5.

NOTE: Consult a physician, especially if you are pregnant, nursing, or taking medication. Determine what will work best if your situation does not allow you to do a full fast.

While Fasting

[Jesus] answered, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’” **Matthew 4:4**

Focus—Set aside time to work through the devotionals. Be ready to respond to God’s Word and the leading of the Holy Spirit.

Pray—Join at least one prayer meeting in your local church. Intercede for your family, church, pastors, nation, campuses, and missions throughout the week.

Replenish—During mealtimes, read the Bible and pray. Drink plenty of water and rest as much as you can. Be ready for temporary bouts of physical weakness and mental annoyances like impatience and irritability.

Breaking the Fast

And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him. **1 John 5:14–15**

Eat—Reintroduce solid food gradually. Your body will need time to adjust to a normal diet. Start with fruits, juices, and salad, then add more vegetables. Eat small portions throughout the day.

Pray—Don’t stop praying! Trust God’s faithfulness and timing. Carry your newfound passion for God throughout the year. Be in faith for God to answer your prayers.

My Plan

Day 1

Water only Liquid only One meal only Other:

Prayer meeting(s) to attend:

Day 2

Water only Liquid only One meal only Other:

Prayer meeting(s) to attend:

Day 3

Water only Liquid only One meal only Other:

Prayer meeting(s) to attend:

Day 4

Water only Liquid only One meal only Other:

Prayer meeting(s) to attend:

Day 5

Water only Liquid only One meal only Other:

Prayer meeting(s) to attend:

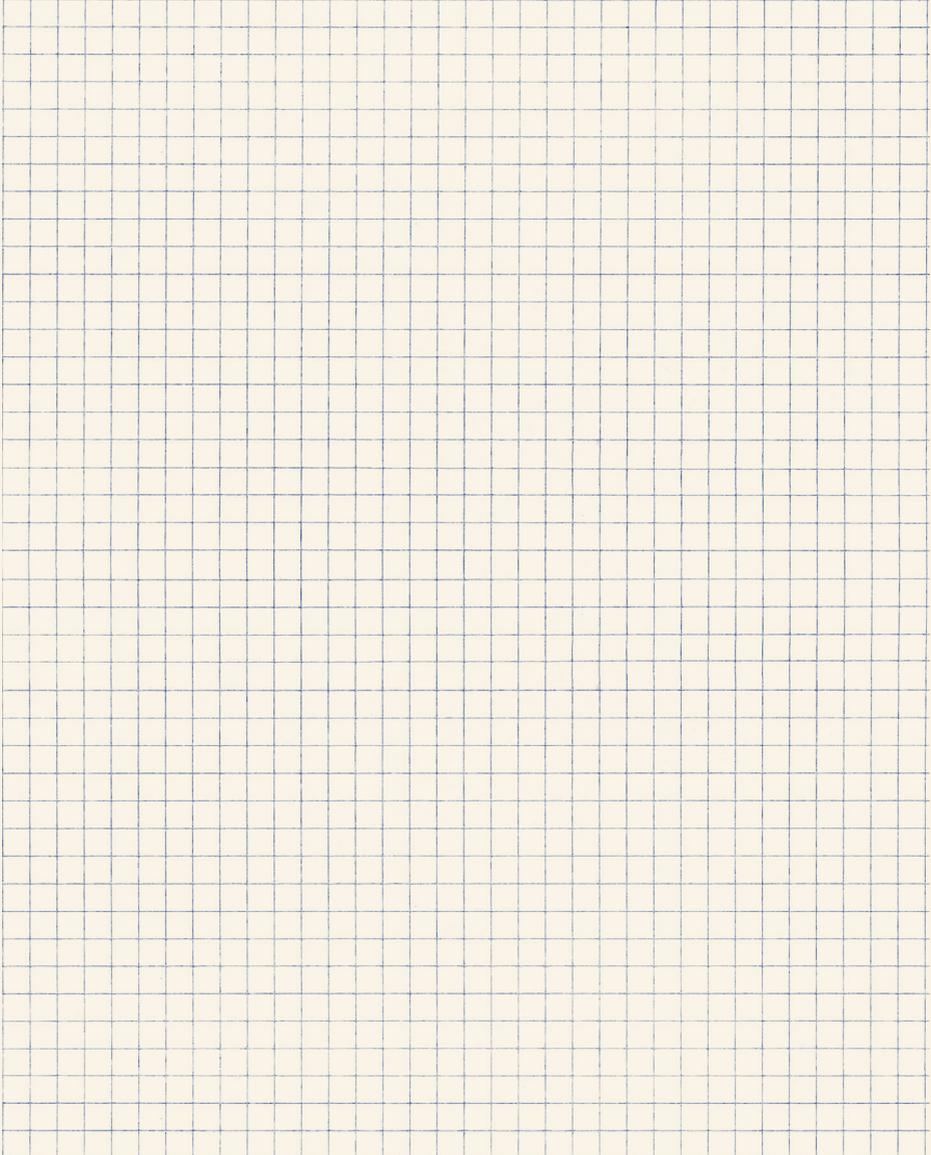
*If two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. **Matthew 18:19***

My Prayer Partner:

I am thankful to God for . . .

Answered Prayers

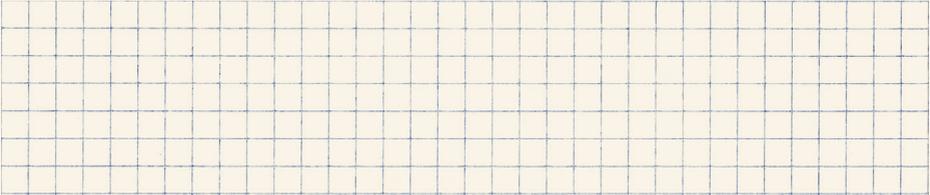
List highlights, answered prayers, and lessons learned in 2025.

A large grid of graph paper, consisting of 20 columns and 30 rows of small squares, intended for writing a list of highlights, answered prayers, and lessons learned in 2025.

In 2026, I will seek God and trust him in these areas:

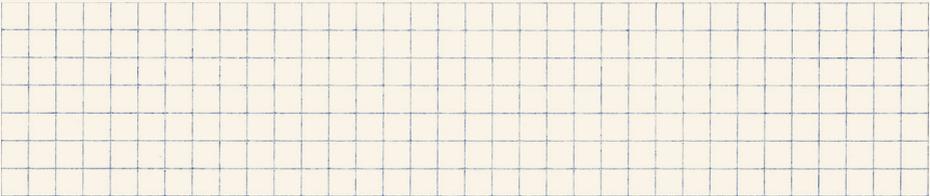
Personal Faith Goals

Spiritual Revival, Physical Healing, Prosperity and Generosity ...



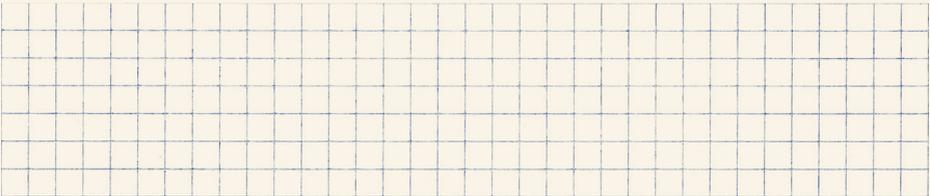
My Family

Restoration of Relationships, Household Salvation ...



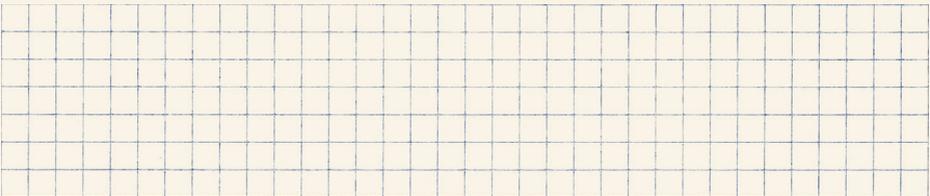
My Education/Career

Excellence, Promotion ...



My Ministry

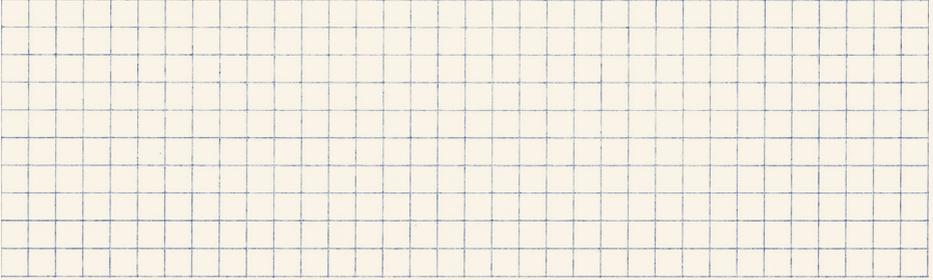
Small Group Growth, Salvation of Colleagues and Classmates ...



I am committing to pray for ...

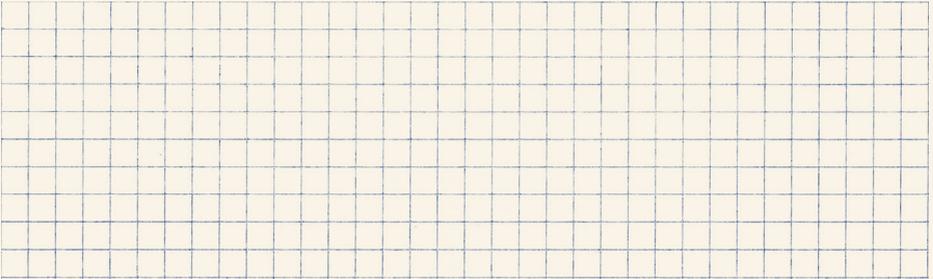
My Church

Church Leadership, Provision, Discipleship Ministry ...



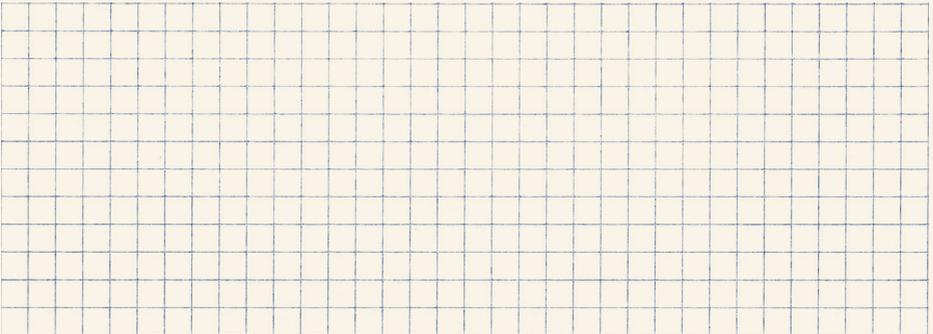
My Community

Campuses, Local Government, Outreach Opportunities ...



My Nation

Government Officials, Spiritual Revival, Economic Prosperity, Peace ...



Mission 2029

A global expansion strategy
to establish campus-reaching churches
in 20 new nations by 2029.

Since launching Mission 2029, we have
established churches in four new nations.

84

Nations with an
Every Nation
church

19

Outreaches
to new nations

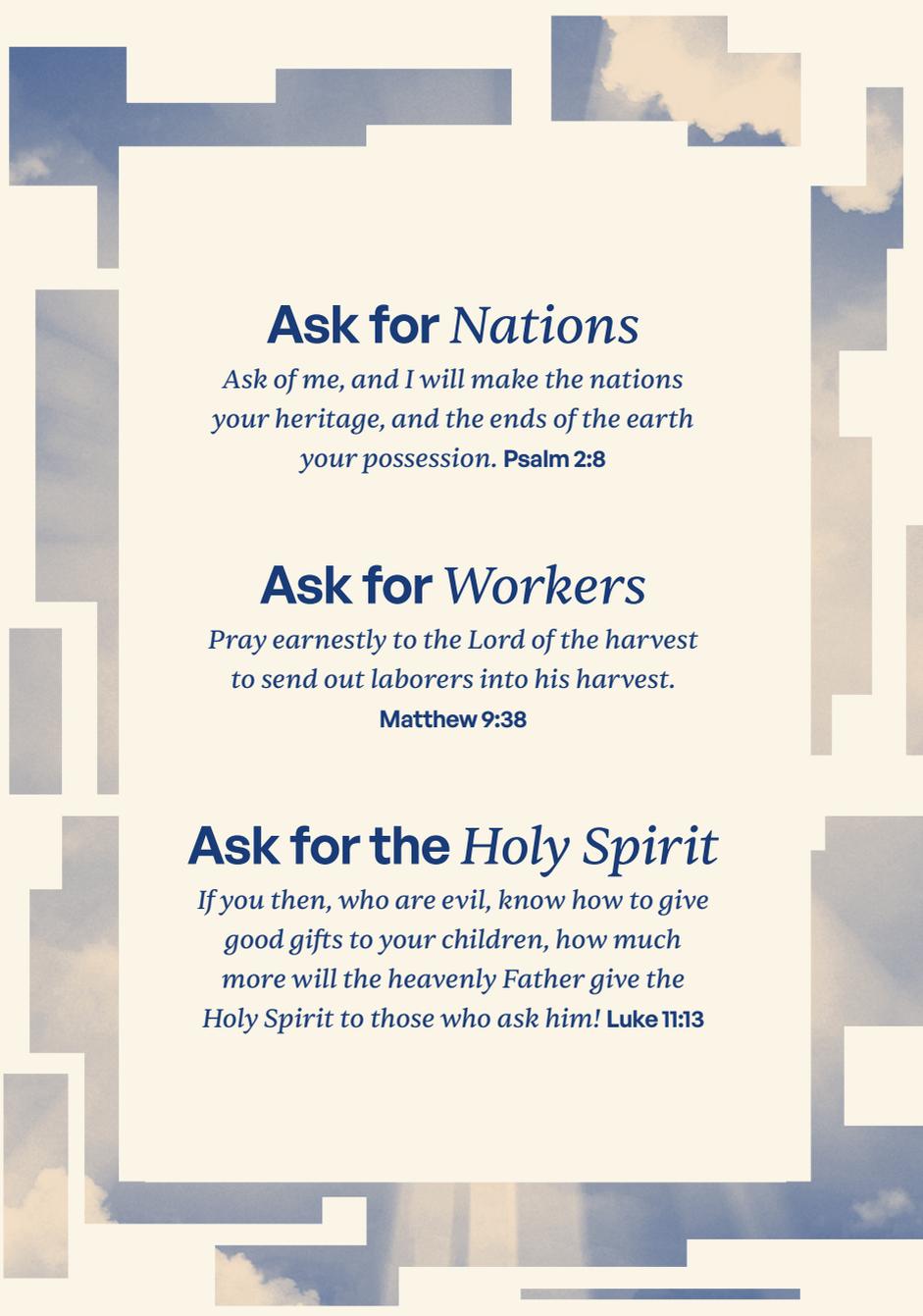
711

Churches

**Numbers as of
September 2025.*

1,405

University
Campuses



Ask for Nations

*Ask of me, and I will make the nations
your heritage, and the ends of the earth
your possession. Psalm 2:8*

Ask for Workers

*Pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest
to send out laborers into his harvest.*

Matthew 9:38

Ask for the Holy Spirit

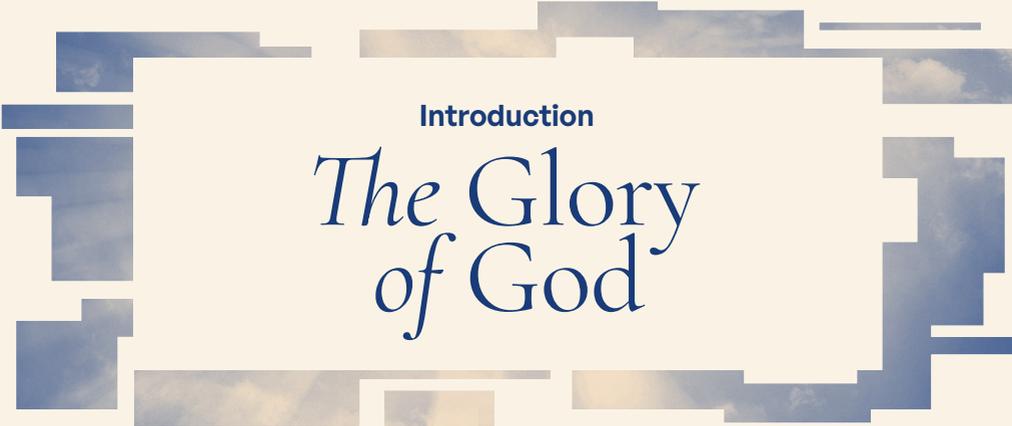
*If you then, who are evil, know how to give
good gifts to your children, how much
more will the heavenly Father give the
Holy Spirit to those who ask him! Luke 11:13*

Pray for new churches to be planted.

**As of September 2025, there are 19 nations with an active outreach.*

- Afghanistan
- Albania
- Algeria
- Andorra
- Angola
- Antigua and Barbuda
- Argentina
- Azerbaijan***
- Bahamas
- Barbados
- Belarus
- Belize
- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Brazil***
- Bulgaria
- Burkina Faso
- Cabo Verde
- Cameroon
- Central African Republic
- Chad
- Chile
- Comoros
- Congo
- Cuba***
- Cyprus
- (DRC) Congo***
- Denmark
- Djibouti
- Dominica
- Ecuador***
- Egypt***
- El Salvador
- Equatorial Guinea
- Eritrea
- Estonia
- Ethiopia
- Finland***
- Gambia
- Georgia
- Greece
- Grenada
- Guatemala***
- Guinea
- Guinea-Bissau
- Guyana
- Haiti
- Honduras***
- Hungary
- Iceland***
- Iraq
- Israel
- Italy***

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jamaica* | <input type="checkbox"/> Saint Kitts and Nevis |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kiribati | <input type="checkbox"/> Saint Lucia |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Latvia | <input type="checkbox"/> Saint Vincent and the Grenadines |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lebanon | <input type="checkbox"/> Samoa* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lesotho | <input type="checkbox"/> San Marino |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Libya | <input type="checkbox"/> Sao Tome and Principe |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Liechtenstein | <input type="checkbox"/> Senegal |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lithuania | <input type="checkbox"/> Serbia |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Luxembourg* | <input type="checkbox"/> Seychelles |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Macedonia | <input type="checkbox"/> Sierra Leone |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mali | <input type="checkbox"/> Slovakia |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Malta | <input type="checkbox"/> Slovenia |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Marshall Islands | <input type="checkbox"/> Solomon Islands* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mauritania | <input type="checkbox"/> Somalia |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Micronesia | <input type="checkbox"/> South Sudan |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Moldova | <input type="checkbox"/> Sudan |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Monaco | <input type="checkbox"/> Suriname |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Montenegro | <input type="checkbox"/> Switzerland* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mozambique* | <input type="checkbox"/> Syria |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nauru | <input type="checkbox"/> Tanzania |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nicaragua | <input type="checkbox"/> Tonga* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Niger | <input type="checkbox"/> Trinidad and Tobago |
| <input type="checkbox"/> North Korea | <input type="checkbox"/> Tunisia |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Norway | <input type="checkbox"/> Turkmenistan |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Palau* | <input type="checkbox"/> Tuvalu |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Palestine | <input type="checkbox"/> Uruguay |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Paraguay | <input type="checkbox"/> Vanuatu |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Romania | <input type="checkbox"/> Vatican City |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Russia | <input type="checkbox"/> Yemen |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rwanda | |



Introduction

The Glory of God

God’s ultimate purpose is to fill the earth with his glory through Christ’s redemptive work, advanced by his redeemed people.

Numbers 14:21

But truly, as I live . . . all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the Lord.

It was a long night for Moses. The ten spies had returned with an evil report of fortified cities and towering giants. Fear raced from tent to tent. Women wept for their children. Men whispered of turning back. The rumble of complaint and mutiny filled the air.

Then the Lord spoke to Moses. “How long will these people treat me with contempt? Will they never believe me, even after all the miraculous signs I have done among them? I will disown and destroy them.”

“Pardon the iniquity of this people,” Moses pleaded, “according to the greatness of your steadfast love.”

The Lord answered, “I have forgiven them as you asked.”

Yet even amid Israel’s unfaithfulness, God declared the promise that captures his great redemptive mission: “All the earth shall be filled with the glory of the Lord.”

This is the heart of the biblical story, the redemptive mission that God has for his creation. Despite the evil and rebellion of darkened humanity, God will fill this earth with his glory. From the wreckage of a fallen world and a lost people, God will restore humanity and the cosmos to the beauty of his original purpose. “For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea” (Habakkuk 2:14).

God’s glory is the brilliance of his triune nature—his power, beauty, and holiness that exists in the relationship between the divine persons of the Trinity. This glory shines in the stars, in the earth, in all he has made. To live for his glory is our “chief end.”^a

From Genesis to Revelation, Scripture proclaims this glory. We see it in the first words of creation when God speaks the universe into being. We hear it in the worship of heaven, where voices cry, “Worthy are you to receive glory” (Revelation 4:11). Paul reminds us that “everything . . . is intended for his glory” (Romans 11:36). And even the heavens declare it (Psalm 19:1), and all creation joins the chorus.

But the highest expression of God’s glory is his Son Jesus—the visible manifestation of God and the radiance of his glory (Hebrews 1:3). When Jesus saves sinners, he magnifies God’s glory by demonstrating his grace, truth, love, and justice. We experience this salvation and are given a divine mandate: to participate in God’s mission to fill the earth with his glory.

As God invites us into his Great Commission, we can trust that his promise to Moses will be fulfilled. His plan is to share his glory with his covenant people. This “hope of glory” (Colossians 1:27) is the heartbeat of our mission—the motivation behind everything we do. When we engage in mission, we honor God and reflect his glory.

Are you ready to glorify God by engaging in his mission?

a. The first entry in the Westminster Shorter Catechism is Question: What is the chief end of man? Answer: Man’s chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever. (Westminster Shorter Catechism, Q.1, available at <https://thewestminsterstandard.org/westminster-shorter-catechism>.)



Prayer

O God of glory, your brilliance fills the heavens and the earth. Your promise remains unshakeable: you will fill *the whole earth* with your glory. You shine forth in creation, in salvation, and in the radiance of your Son.

May our lives reflect your glory in all we do. Make us bearers of your light, proclaiming your truth *until the world is filled* with your knowledge. Strengthen us for the mission you have set before us, that we may honor you and make your name known *among the nations*.

For yours is the glory, now and forever. *Amen*.



Day One

The Command to Multiply

From the garden to the nations, God’s plan has always been to fill the world with redeemed worshipers.

Genesis 1:28

And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

Our part in God’s mission began in a garden—a place of delight where God walked with his friends in the cool of the day. He entrusted them with a mission: cultivate the garden, make it flourish, and fill the earth with his glory. They were to multiply, bearing children in his image, spreading his presence across creation.

But something went desperately wrong. Adam and Eve chose disobedience and defiance. Through them, sin entered the world, its curse spread throughout creation, and we feel its weight and pain today. Instead of filling the earth with God’s glory, humanity filled it with violence and corruption (Genesis 6:5, 11). Our original mission was marred but not abandoned. God set a redemptive plan in motion to restore his image in humanity and glory in the earth.

He spoke to Noah after the flood: “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth” (Genesis 9:1).

He chose Abraham: “In you all the families of the earth shall be blessed” (Genesis 12:3).

He called Israel to be “a kingdom of priests and a holy nation” (Exodus 19:6).

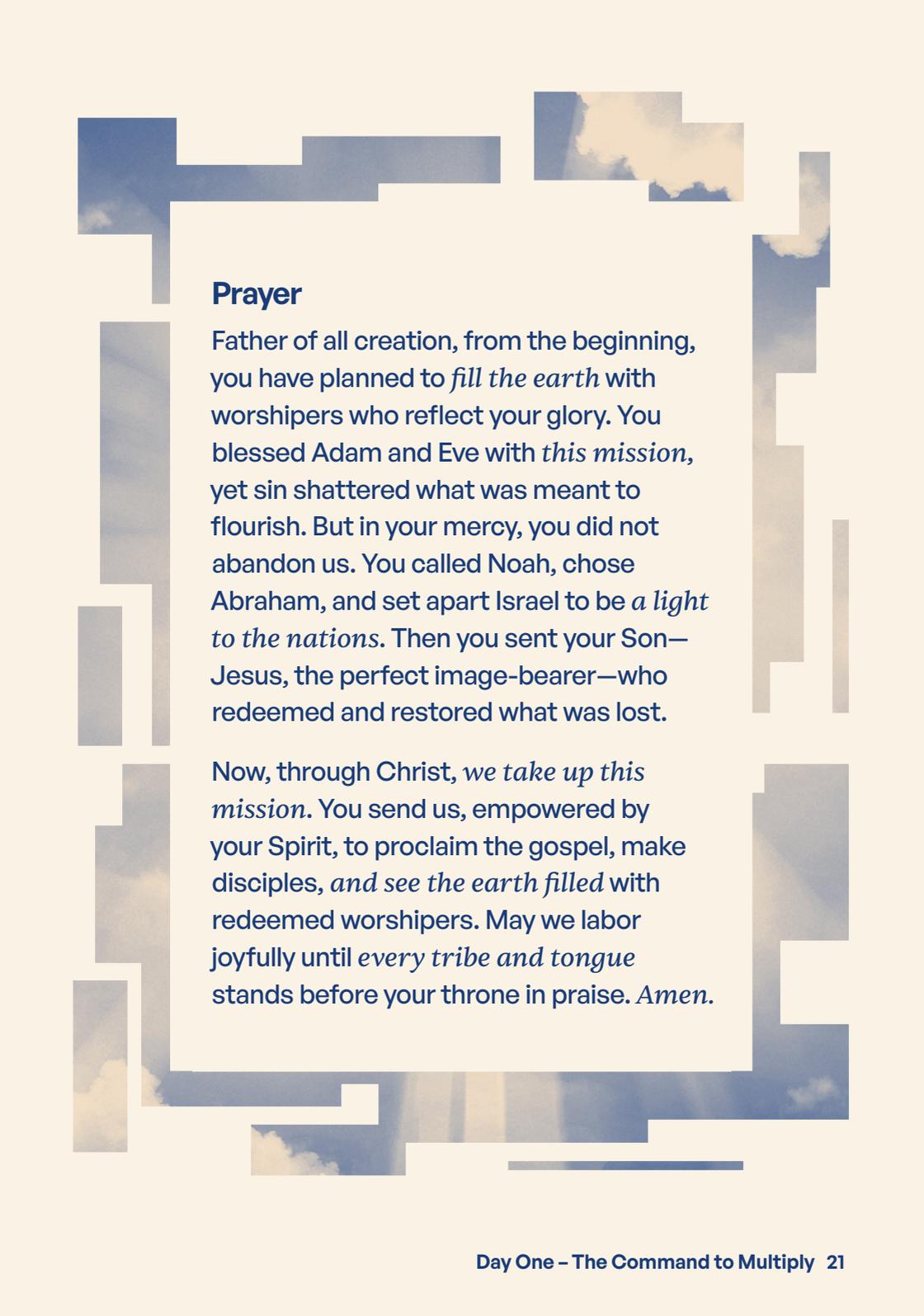
Then he sent his Son.

Jesus, the perfect image-bearer, came to restore what sin had shattered. Through Christ’s death and resurrection, he renewed the original mandate (although its complete fulfillment awaits his return). The Great Commission, echoing Genesis 1, calls us to make disciples of all nations and fill the earth with redeemed image-bearers who reflect God’s glory.

The first Adam failed his calling, but the second Adam fulfilled his. As the Holy Spirit transforms us into the image of Christ (2 Corinthians 3:18), we take up his mission—spreading the good news and discipling the nations.

The story that began in a garden will end in a city—the New Jerusalem, descending from heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. John saw it: a vast multitude from every tribe and tongue gathered before God’s throne. One day, God will restore all things, his people will reign with him, and the whole earth will be filled with his glory.

Until then, we must walk in his power to proclaim the gospel and multiply disciples.



Prayer

Father of all creation, from the beginning, you have planned to *fill the earth* with worshipers who reflect your glory. You blessed Adam and Eve with *this mission*, yet sin shattered what was meant to flourish. But in your mercy, you did not abandon us. You called Noah, chose Abraham, and set apart Israel to be *a light to the nations*. Then you sent your Son—Jesus, the perfect image-bearer—who redeemed and restored what was lost.

Now, through Christ, *we take up this mission*. You send us, empowered by your Spirit, to proclaim the gospel, make disciples, *and see the earth filled* with redeemed worshipers. May we labor joyfully until *every tribe and tongue* stands before your throne in praise. *Amen.*

Day Two

The Blessing of Abraham

God's covenant with Abraham reveals his unchanging purpose—to bring redemption and blessing to all nations through Christ.

Genesis 12:1–3

¹Now the Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you.

²And I will make of you a great nation . . . ³and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

Abraham’s father, Terah, was dead. It was time for Abraham to move on. He had lingered in Haran too long.

Abraham’s journey had begun years before in Ur, a city devoted to the moon god. Like his family, Abraham had participated in the rituals of idolatry. Each evening, people in Ur would light lamps at their household shrines, whispering prayers for health, fertility, and protection from the dangers of the night. Idolatry was woven into the fabric of his life—it was all he had ever known.

But then the God of glory appeared to him and commanded him to leave Ur. Abraham obeyed without knowing where he was going.

His father started with him on the journey, making it as far as Haran. They settled there until his father died. Then, Abraham left his house for the covenant land of blessing.

Blessing is the heartbeat of Genesis 12:1–3. Hebrew authors use repetition to highlight the key message of a text, and in verses 2 and 3, “bless” or “blessing” appears five times. How can this be? The nine previous chapters catalog human sin from Adam’s fall to Babel’s pride, and we expect condemnation. Instead, God speaks blessing. Missiologist Christopher Wright says,

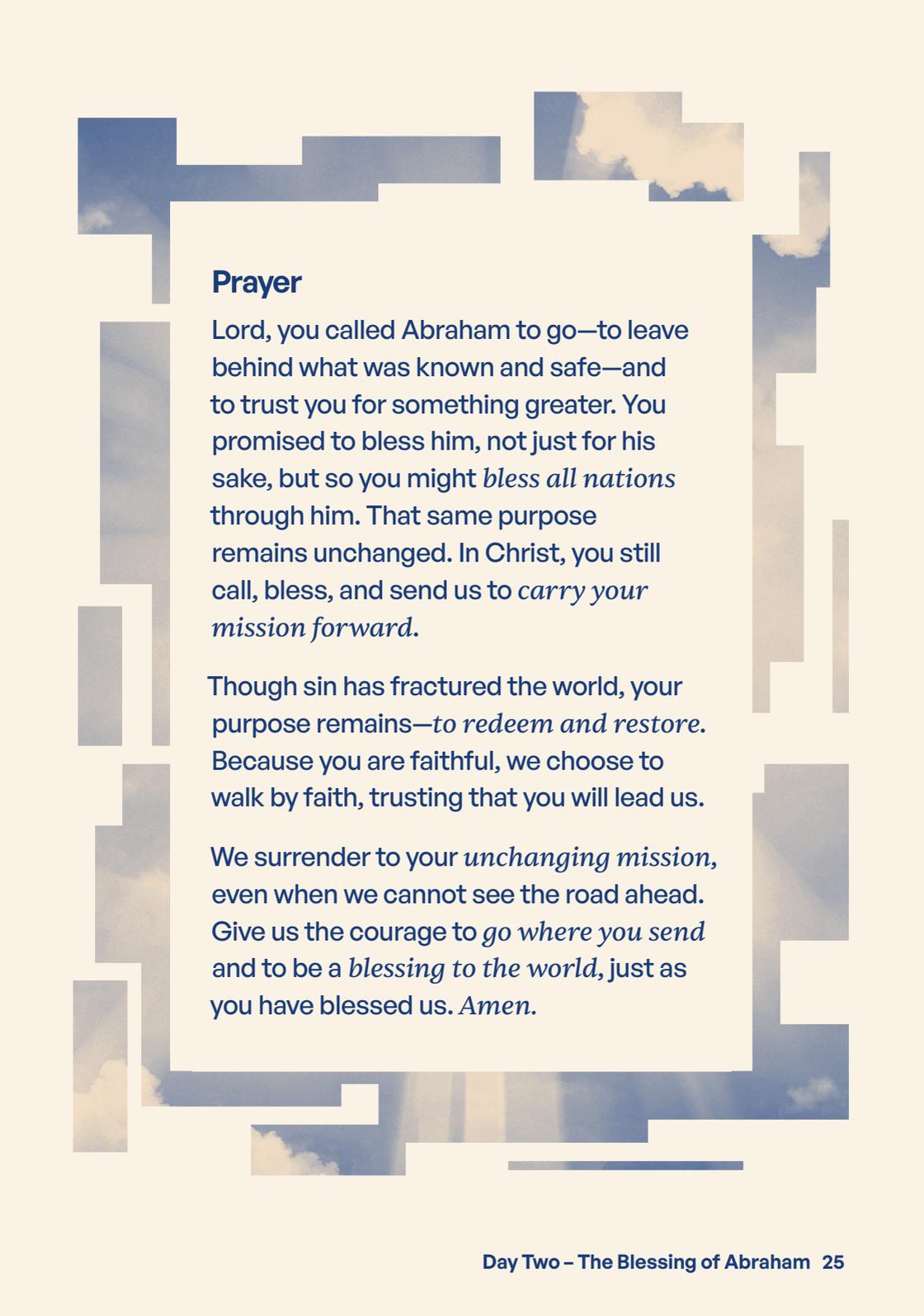
Genesis 12:1–3 is a pivotal text not only in the book of Genesis but in the whole Bible. It declares the good news that in spite of all we have read in Genesis 3–11, it is God’s ultimate purpose to bless humanity. And the story of how that blessing for all nations has come about occupies the rest of the Bible, with Christ as the central focus.^a

Blessing means more than happiness. It is fruitfulness, fullness, abundance, peace, prosperity, long life, a thriving land, a growing family. Above all, it is life lived in harmony with God, experiencing his glory, through the Holy Spirit (Galatians 3:14).

God’s promises to Abraham, his family, and the world continue the original blessing he gave to Adam in Genesis 1:28–30. They show that his mission to fill the earth with his glory has never changed. He remains eternally committed to blessing all nations.

We are joined to that same promise through Christ and receive Abraham’s blessing. But we’re not just called to receive it—we’re called to share it. Just as God sent Abraham, he now invites us to be part of his mission to bless the nations.

a. Christopher Wright, *The Mission of God*, (Lisle, IL: IVP Academic, 2006) 194.



Prayer

Lord, you called Abraham to go—to leave behind what was known and safe—and to trust you for something greater. You promised to bless him, not just for his sake, but so you might *bless all nations* through him. That same purpose remains unchanged. In Christ, you still call, bless, and send us to *carry your mission forward*.

Though sin has fractured the world, your purpose remains—to *redeem and restore*. Because you are faithful, we choose to walk by faith, trusting that you will lead us.

We surrender to your *unchanging mission*, even when we cannot see the road ahead. Give us the courage to *go where you send* and to be a *blessing to the world*, just as you have blessed us. *Amen*.



Day Three

The Ends of the Earth

People from all nations and generations will proclaim God's righteousness and Christ's finished work.

Psalm 22:1, 27, 30–31

¹“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” ...²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, and all the families of the nations shall worship before you. . . .³⁰Posterity shall serve him; it shall be told of the Lord to the coming generation; ³¹they shall come and proclaim his righteousness to a people yet unborn, that he has done it.

During a vicious attack from his foes, David cries, “I am less than a man, a nothing, a worm in the dirt. They mock me. They spit at me. They shake their heads and sneer. They circle me like ravenous beasts. They pierce my hands, my feet. I can see my bones. My tormentors roar like bulls and dogs and wild oxen. I am poured out, empty, broken. My heart melts inside me. My strength is gone, my tongue sticks to my mouth. I lie in the dust of death” (adapted from Psalm 22:6–18).

No recorded incident in David's life matches the intensity and agony of these words. His lament exceeds his own suffering and foreshadows Christ's suffering. David's agony anticipates the immeasurable agony Jesus

will endure on the cross when he pays the price for the salvation of the nations. Psalm 22 is prophecy in the form of a cry.

As the psalm continues, David descends into suffering but rises in worship. He begins in despair but ends in confidence with the final words, “he has done it,” a foreshadowing of Christ’s triumphant cry on the cross—“It is finished.” In this latter half of the psalm, David has turned his gaze from himself to the nations, and his tone changes from lament to praise. He refocuses his attention in the midst of his circumstance and sees something bigger than himself: God’s mission for the nations and the coming generations.

We learn two important truths about God’s missional heart.

1. The nations will turn to the Lord. “All the ends of the earth shall turn to the Lord.” Christ’s death on the cross was not just for one nation but for people of all nations, and it will finally result in the redemption of a multitude.

2. Future generations will hear and respond. “Posterity shall serve him.” The mission does not end—it carries on. It is global and generational, as one generation disciples the next. It is our responsibility to disciple others in response to God’s missional call.

Prayer

Jesus, you were forsaken so that we might be redeemed. Your agony fulfilled the prophecy of Psalm 22, securing *salvation for the nations*. Through your finished work on the cross, salvation has come *to the ends of the earth*. Let the nations remember and turn to you.

Open the hearts of those who have never heard your name, and let the gospel reach *every tribe, tongue, and people*. May every family, every generation, and every nation bow in worship before your throne.

Raise up laborers for the harvest who will declare that redemption is accomplished and the debt is paid. *Send us wherever you will*, that our lives may be spent for your glory. May our lives reflect Christ's victory, and *may the nations rejoice* in your salvation. *Amen*.

Day Four

The God of the Mission

A revelation of God’s grace and compassion propels us to proclaim him to the nations.

Isaiah 6:1–3, 5–8

¹In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple.

²Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. ³And one called to another and said: “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!”... ⁵And I said: “Woe is me! For I am lost....” ⁶Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a burning coal... ⁷And he touched my mouth and said: “... Your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for.”

⁸And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” Then I said, “Here I am! Send me.”

In the year of Uzziah’s death, Isaiah entered the temple. He saw God there, high and exalted, and seated on a throne. His robe filled the temple. In the ancient Near East, monarchs displayed their greatness through the splendor of their garments. The fullness of God’s garment was so great that it filled the entire temple.

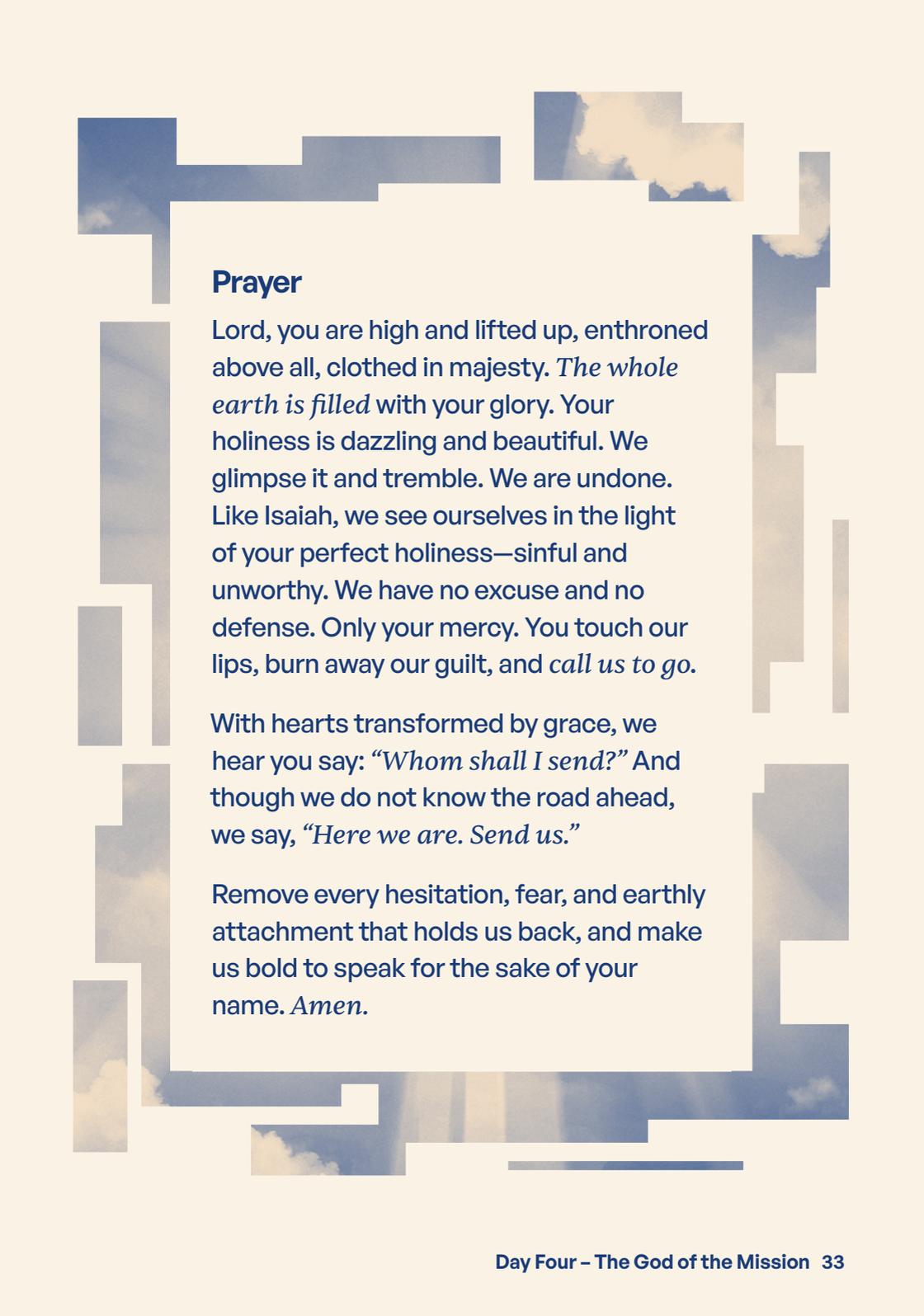
Two seraphim called to one another, “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty.” The word holy here signifies a beauty so fierce it steals your breath away. A holiness so beautiful and desirable that it is worth any price.

We look for glimpses of such beauty in this world. Think of the Tower of London, which showcases the world’s largest collection of crown jewels. A moving walkway carries visitors past diamonds, emeralds, rubies—more than 23,000 gemstones set in crowns, scepters, jewelry, and more. It is stunning beyond words. But it is nothing next to the beauty of God’s holiness.

This was Isaiah’s first revelation about God. His second revelation was about himself: “Woe is me! For I am lost.” When we see the God of the Mission, we see ourselves in contrast. And it is a devastating disclosure.

Confronted with perfect holiness, Isaiah saw the full depth of his sin. He had no defense and no plan for self-improvement, only the expectation of wrath. But when the seraph touched his lips with a burning coal, there was no judgment, only mercy. “Your guilt is taken away. Your sin is atoned for.” One moment after Isaiah realized he was more wicked than he ever knew, he discovered he was more loved than he ever imagined.

This gospel revelation changed him. He volunteered for service before knowing the job description, and historical tradition tells us he was sawn in two—a brutal death. But when we meet the God of the Mission, there is nothing too great he can ask of us. We will go anywhere and do anything at whatever cost. Is there anything holding you back from giving your all for the Great Commission?



Prayer

Lord, you are high and lifted up, enthroned above all, clothed in majesty. *The whole earth is filled* with your glory. Your holiness is dazzling and beautiful. We glimpse it and tremble. We are undone. Like Isaiah, we see ourselves in the light of your perfect holiness—sinful and unworthy. We have no excuse and no defense. Only your mercy. You touch our lips, burn away our guilt, and *call us to go*.

With hearts transformed by grace, we hear you say: *“Whom shall I send?”* And though we do not know the road ahead, we say, *“Here we are. Send us.”*

Remove every hesitation, fear, and earthly attachment that holds us back, and make us bold to speak for the sake of your name. *Amen.*



Day Five

The Commission to Go

The Great Commission is the Church's primary mandate from Christ—as urgent today as when he first gave it.

Matthew 28:18–20

¹⁸And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

The Church began with fire, sending men and women to carry the gospel across the world. But over the centuries, that fire cooled. Many believers grew passive. They thought living on mission was unnecessary. If God meant to save the lost, he would do it his way, without the aid of a missionary.

Justinian von Welz (1621–1688) battled that false theology. He believed that Protestant churches had neglected Jesus' command to evangelize the world. In *A Sincere Call for the Establishment of Missionary Societies*, he argued that Jesus' commission applied to all Christians throughout history.

More than a century later, William Carey pressed the case again. Standing before a gathering of ministers, he declared, “The command given to the apostles to teach all nations was binding on all succeeding ministers to

the end of the world.” Their response was swift and sharp: “Young man, sit down! When God pleases to convert the heathen, he’ll do it without consulting you or me.”

But God was not converting the lost alone. Instead, he was calling men and women to go and preach the good news. Carey heard the call, obeyed, and launched the modern missions movement.

The Great Commission is still binding, and God is still calling. We find it in all four Gospels and again in Acts. But Matthew’s text stands out, and one reason is his comprehensive use of “all.”^a

All authority: Jesus, the risen Lord, head of all principalities and possessor of all things, commands us to go. He has the authority to give orders, make decisions, and enforce obedience. Because of who he is, we leave all other allegiances and follow him. We can’t call him Lord and ignore his word.

All nations: Jesus set the extent of the Great Commission when he said, “all nations.”^b God’s love knows no ethnic or national boundary. All peoples, tongues, and tribes are welcome in his kingdom. He does not send us to gather converts but to make disciples. Baptizing and teaching are part of the work, but the heart is discipleship.

All I have commanded you: The Great Commission does not allow us to be selective about what commands we obey. We cannot pick only the ones we like. Discipleship aims to develop people who keep all his commands (because they love him).

Always: His promise stands as firm as his command: “I am with you always.” Not sometimes. Not only when the road is smooth. Always. In trouble, danger, or doubt. His presence is our confidence and strength as we go and fulfill our part of the Great Commission.

a. Packer, *Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God*, (Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2012) 36.

b. Ethnos (Gr.): a body of persons united by kinship, culture, and common traditions. William Arndt et al., *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000), 276.

Prayer

You are the risen King, possessing all authority *in heaven and earth*. You have called us *to go—to make disciples*, to baptize, and to teach. Your command is clear; it is our primary mandate, as urgent today as when you first spoke it. Forgive us if we grow idle when we assume that you will work without us.

Set a fire in our hearts like the one that sent the first disciples *to the ends of the earth*. Let their passion stir ours. We reject the notion that *the mission* belongs to someone else. Give us eyes to see the lost, hearts to love them, and voices to proclaim your truth.

We acknowledge that *you go before us* and your presence sustains us. We will not delay or hesitate. Keep us urgent, keep us moving, keep us trusting. *Amen.*



Conclusion

The Lamb on the Throne

God’s mission cannot fail, so we go with urgency and confidence.

Revelation 7:9–10

“After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands,¹⁰ and crying out with a loud voice, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!””

In John’s vision, the redeemed stretch beyond the horizon, a vast multitude as far as the eye can see. They wear white robes, washed clean in the blood of the Lamb. They carry palm branches, symbols of victory and celebration. They unite in a single cry: “To our God and to the Lamb, we owe our salvation!” They know their deliverance rests on God and the redemptive activity of his Son.

This great assembly, as numerous as the stars in the sky and the sand on the shore, fulfills God’s ancient promise to Abraham—that through him, all nations would be blessed (Genesis 12:3).

It also completes Christ’s Great Commission. Jesus commanded us to make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:19), and we see the result of our obedience in this scene. God’s redemptive plan, foreshadowed in Daniel’s

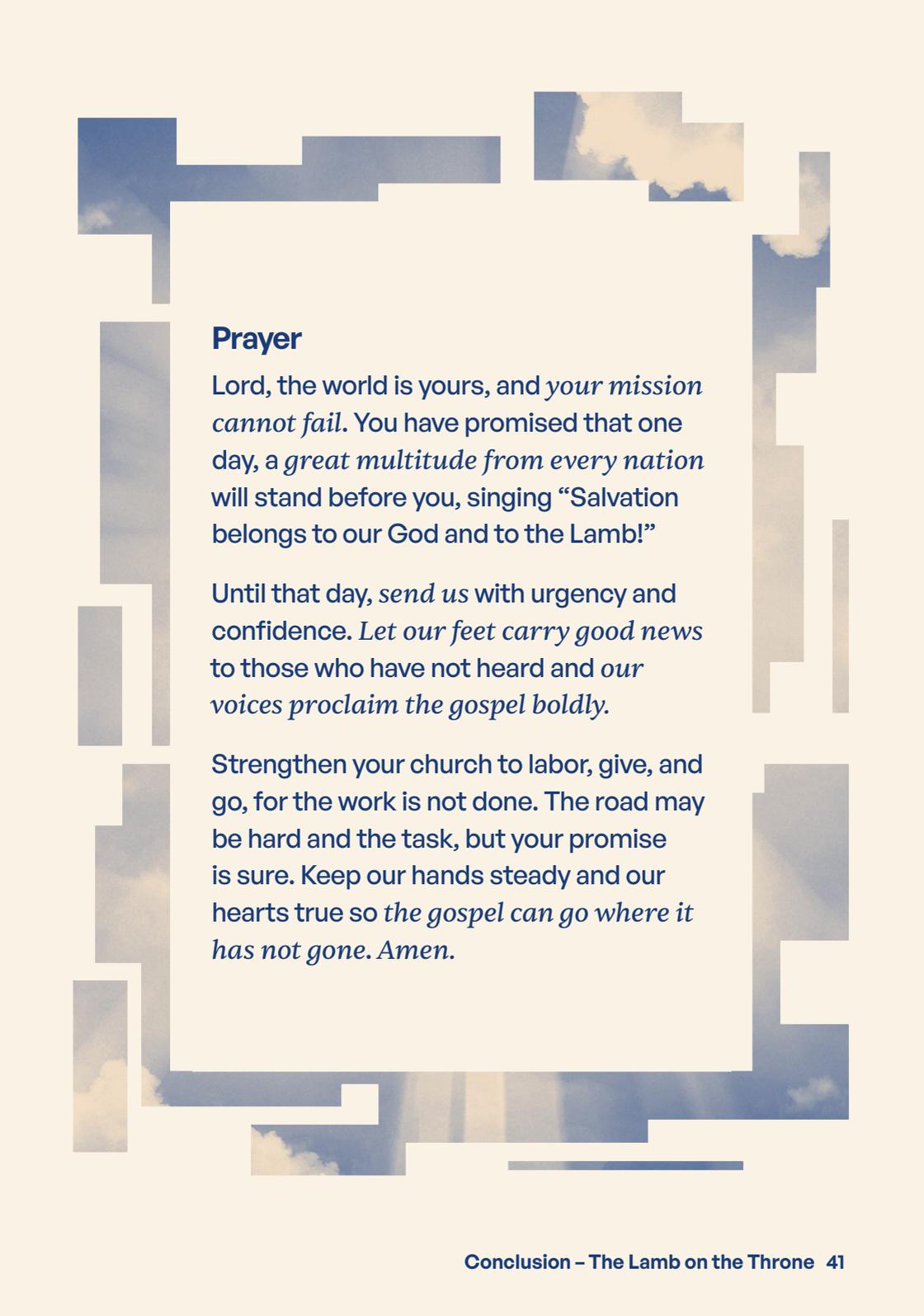
vision—“And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him” (Daniel 7:14)—has reached its glorious culmination.

The vision is not only a glimpse of the future but also a summons to the present. We have not yet finished our task of reaching the nations. People groups remain unreached. The gospel must cross borders and take root where Christ is unknown. The certainty of God’s mission fuels our urgency. Because we know the outcome, we go forward with confidence.

Revelation 7:9–10 reminds us that the mission will not fail. God will complete what he began. The gospel will reach the ends of the earth. This certainty does not make our role unnecessary—it makes it meaningful. The God who sovereignly accomplishes his plan calls us to participate in it. He sends us to speak, labor, and give, knowing that one day, the redeemed from every nation will stand before the throne.

Until that day, we go.

Where has God
called *you* to go?

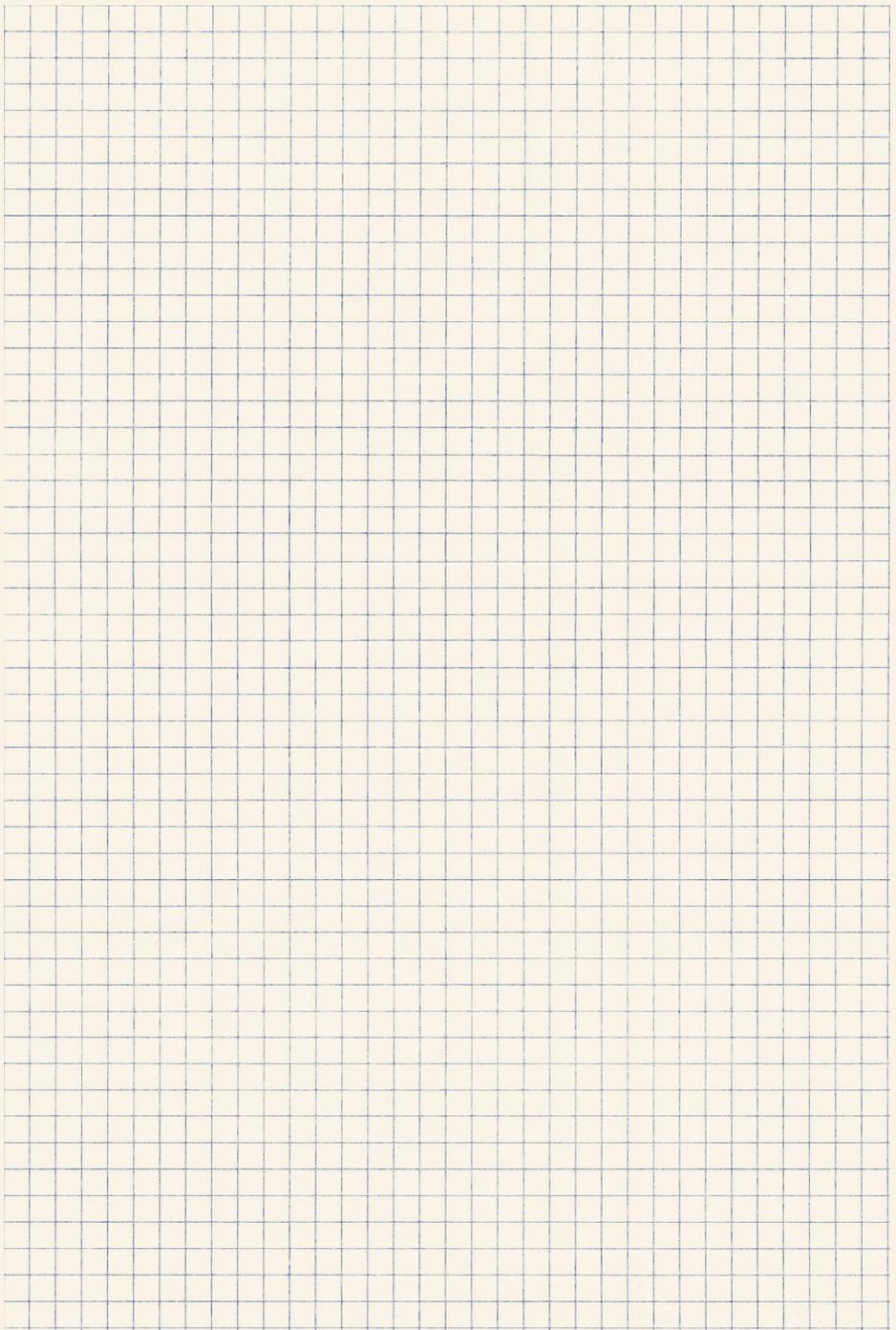


Prayer

Lord, the world is yours, and *your mission cannot fail*. You have promised that one day, a *great multitude from every nation* will stand before you, singing “Salvation belongs to our God and to the Lamb!”

Until that day, *send us* with urgency and confidence. *Let our feet carry good news* to those who have not heard and *our voices proclaim the gospel boldly*.

Strengthen your church to labor, give, and go, for the work is not done. The road may be hard and the task, but your promise is sure. Keep our hands steady and our hearts true so *the gospel can go where it has not gone. Amen.*





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