

PRAYER, FASTING, AND CONSECRATION | 2023

# Miracles

LET HIM BE KNOWN





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EVERY NATION



**EVERY NATION**

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**[EveryNation.org/Fasting](https://www.EveryNation.org/Fasting) #ENfast2023**

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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 victory in people's lives. Every Nation churches and campus ministries begin each new 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 receive God's answers to our prayers.

### Fasting helps us become sensitive to the Holy Spirit.

While they were worshiping 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. Then we are better able to 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 prevail 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. If your situation does not allow you to do a full fast, determine what will work best for you.

# 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 mealtime, 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 2022.

A large grid of dots for writing, consisting of 20 rows and 30 columns of small dots.

# In 2023, I will seek God and trust him in these areas:

## Personal Faith Goals

Spiritual Revival • Physical Healing • Prosperity and Abundance • Rich Generosity ...

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## My Family

Restoration of Relationships • Household Salvation ...

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## My Education/Career

Excellence • Promotion ...

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## My Ministry

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

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# I am committing to pray for ...

## My Church

Church Leadership • Provision • Discipleship Ministry ...

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## My Community

Campuses and Educational Institutions • Local Government • Outreach Opportunities ...

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## My Nation

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

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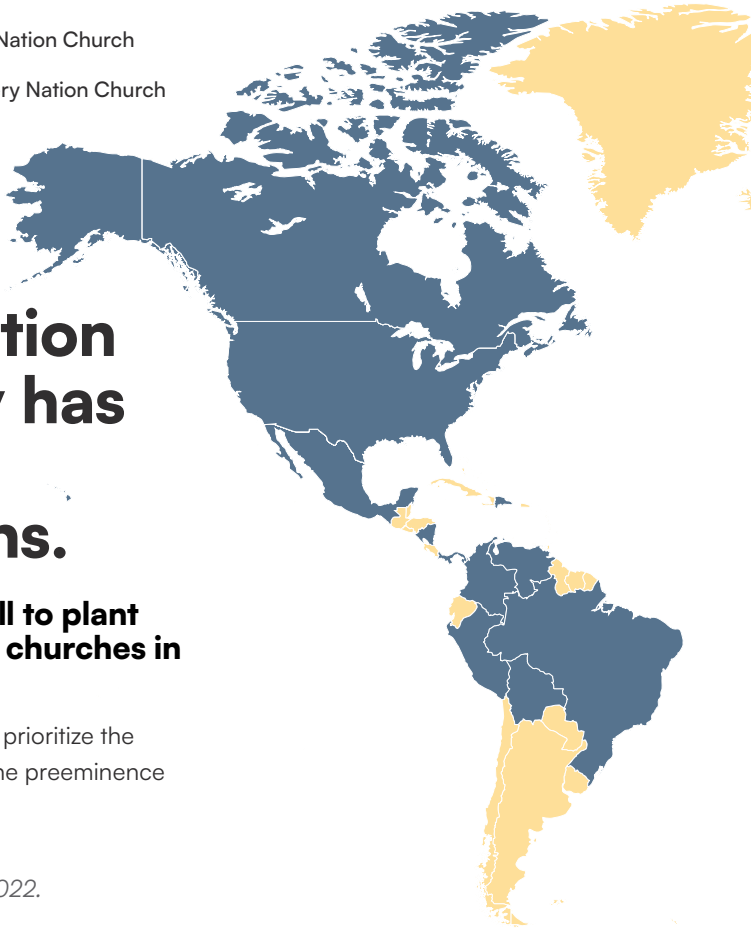
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Nations with an Every Nation Church



Nations without an Every Nation Church



# Every Nation currently has work in 80 nations.

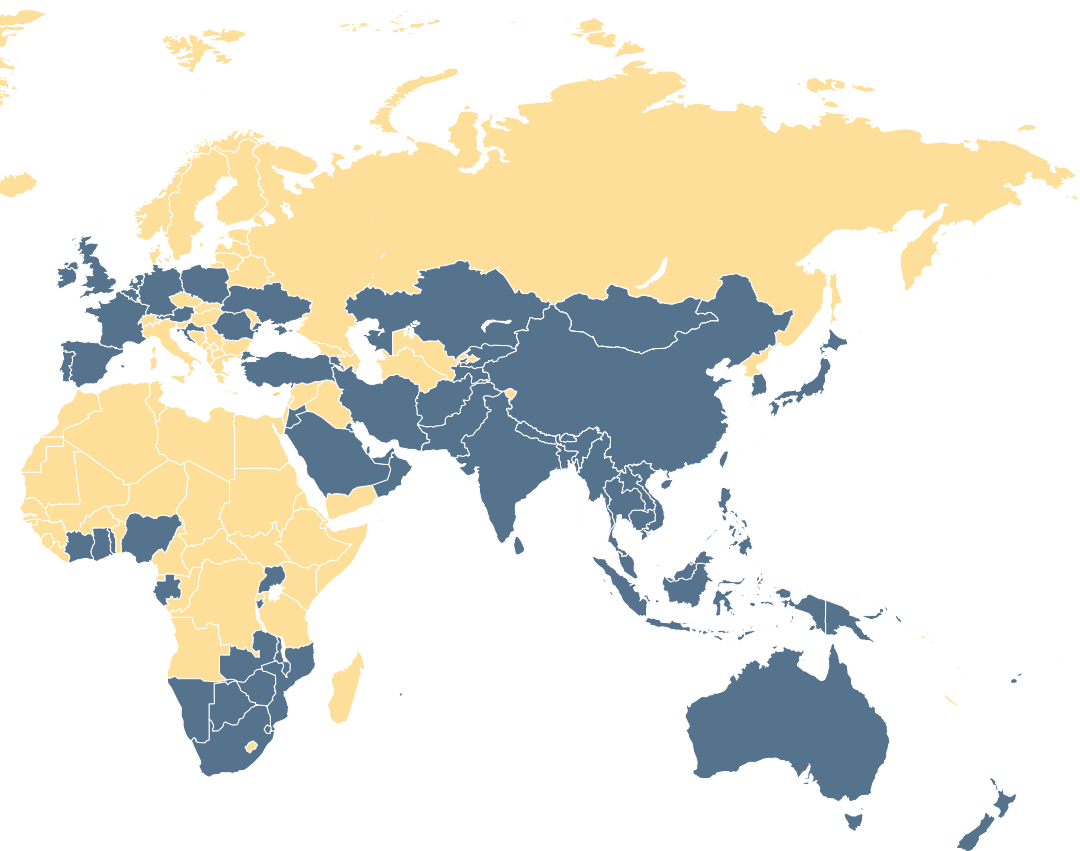
## Fulfilling God's call to plant campus-reaching churches in every nation.

Let's pray for the nations, prioritize the campus, and recognize the preeminence of the gospel.

*Numbers as of October 2022.*

Continue to pray for the remaining **115** nations without an Every Nation church and believe God for open doors to plant more churches.

- |                        |                                  |                   |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| Afghanistan            | Cabo Verde                       | Egypt             |
| Albania                | Cameroon                         | El Salvador       |
| Algeria                | Central African Republic         | Equatorial Guinea |
| Andorra                | Chad                             | Eritrea           |
| Angola                 | Chile                            | Estonia           |
| Antigua and Barbuda    | Comoros                          | Ethiopia          |
| Argentina              | Congo                            | Finland           |
| Azerbaijan             | Costa Rica                       | Gambia            |
| Bahamas                | Cuba                             | Georgia           |
| Barbados               | Cyprus                           | Greece            |
| Belarus                | Democratic Republic of the Congo | Grenada           |
| Belize                 | Denmark                          | Guatemala         |
| Benin                  | Djibouti                         | Guinea            |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina | Dominica                         | Guinea-Bissau     |
| Bulgaria               | Ecuador                          | Guyana            |
| Burkina Faso           |                                  | Haiti             |
|                        |                                  | Honduras          |



Hungary  
Iceland  
Iraq  
Israel  
Italy  
Jamaica  
Kenya  
Kiribati  
Latvia  
Lebanon  
Lesotho  
Liberia  
Libya  
Liechtenstein  
Lithuania  
Luxembourg  
Macedonia

Madagascar  
Mali  
Malta  
Marshall Islands  
Mauritania  
Micronesia  
Moldova  
Monaco  
Montenegro  
Morocco  
Nauru  
Niger  
North Korea  
Norway  
Palau  
Palestine  
Paraguay

Russia  
Rwanda  
Saint Kitts and Nevis  
Saint Lucia  
Saint Vincent and the  
Grenadines  
Samoa  
San Marino  
São Tomé and Príncipe  
Senegal  
Serbia  
Seychelles  
Sierra Leone  
Slovakia  
Slovenia  
Solomon Islands  
Somalia

South Sudan  
Sudan  
Suriname  
Sweden  
Switzerland  
Syria  
Tanzania  
Tonga  
Trinidad and Tobago  
Tunisia  
Turkmenistan  
Tuvalu  
Uruguay  
Uzbekistan  
Vanuatu  
Vatican City  
Yemen

# 466 established churches globally

## 119 active church plants

### Pray for more churches to be planted.

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

Pray for our church plants as they make disciples, meet the needs of their communities, and share the good news of the gospel in new cities.

### Pray for these nations and territories with active church plants:

Armenia

Australia

Botswana

Brazil

Cambodia

Canada

China

Colombia

Croatia

Czech Republic

France

Hong Kong

India

Indonesia

Iran

Kazakhstan

Malawi

Malaysia

Maldives

Mauritius

Mexico

Mozambique

Netherlands

New Zealand

Nicaragua

Pakistan

Panama

Philippines

Portugal

Romania

South Africa

Taiwan

Tajikistan

Thailand

Timor-Leste

United Arab Emirates

United Kingdom

United States  
of America

Vietnam

Zambia

*Numbers as of October 2022.*



# 1,074 established campuses and outreaches

## A vision to reach the whole world through the university campus.

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

Matthew 9:38

We plant churches that reach the campus because we firmly believe that if we change the campus, we will eventually change the family, the nation, and the world. Campus ministry is a dedication to take the gospel to college students, right where they are on campus. It's a calling to serve, to impact, to go.

### Pray:

- For new students to be engaged with the gospel this year
- For wisdom for campus missionaries and churches as they evangelize and disciple college students
- For favor with university faculty to engage students
- For open doors at new campuses



## Pray for the 2023 Go Conference.

In 2023, Every Nation leaders from around the world will meet in Cape Town, South Africa, for our triennial Go Conference. This will be a time of celebration and equipping. We look forward to what God will do as we gather together in faith to plant more churches that reach the campus.

Visit [everynation.org/go2023](https://everynation.org/go2023) for more info.



*INTRODUCTION:*

# The Purpose of Miracles

## Acts 1:5–8

“[...] John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”<sup>6</sup> So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?”<sup>7</sup> He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority.<sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

## Additional Reading:

**Matthew 28:16–20; Jeremiah 32:27; Luke 18:27**

Acts 1:6–11 is often referred to as the thesis statement of Acts, setting the stage for the rest of the book. The themes found in this passage continue throughout the rest of Acts—the Holy Spirit will empower, lead, and guide God’s people as they advance his kingdom. In Matthew 28, Jesus gives his disciples the Great Commission to “go make disciples of all nations,” but in Acts 1:8 he gives them the power necessary to fulfill such a mission.

Throughout the Old Testament, the Spirit of God would come upon people for a specific time to do miraculous things and then depart from them. But after the miracle of Christ's resurrection in the New Testament, the Spirit was given to remain with God's people. He was sent to stay with us.

Through the gift of the Holy Spirit, Jesus gives his disciples the supernatural power to be his witnesses and live a life that honors God.

The stories we see throughout Acts are marked by the miraculous. Merriam-Webster's dictionary defines a miracle as a "divine intervention in human affairs." God is still intervening, even today. He still loves to cause a miracle to testify to the truthfulness of the gospel. He demonstrates his power to show his love to his people, through his people, and for the world.

The miraculous is always tied to the mission in Acts 1—that we would be witnesses of God, his goodness, and his power. God performs miracles so that we can know God and let him be known.

## **Has there been a time when God divinely intervened in your life?**

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## **Set aside time to pray and thank God for his power and goodness.**

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# Faith Step

**Write down some practical ways that you can be a witness in your everyday life.**

A large white rounded rectangle containing a grid of small black dots for writing.



Heavenly Father, thank you for stepping  
into our broken world to change our  
circumstances for good. Your Word is full of  
miracles that display your love, power, and  
goodness. I pray that you would open my  
heart to truly believe you can do all things.  
You are the Almighty, kind and worthy of  
praise, and I am ready to see you at work in  
my life and through my life this week. In

Jesus' name I pray,

*A M E N .*

DAY ONE:

# Pentecost

## Acts 2:1–8, 14

<sup>1</sup>When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. <sup>2</sup>And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup>And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. <sup>4</sup>And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance. <sup>5</sup>Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. <sup>6</sup>And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language. <sup>7</sup>And they were amazed and astonished, saying, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?” <sup>8</sup>And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language?”

<sup>14</sup>But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them: “Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words.”

## Additional Reading:

Acts 2:9–41; Exodus 4:10–12; Isaiah 52:7; Romans 10:14–17

In Jewish tradition, the Feast of Pentecost was a time to thank God for the firstfruits of the wheat harvest. In Acts 2, the disciples celebrate a different kind of harvest at Pentecost: a harvest of people who respond to the gospel.

Jesus tells the disciples in Acts 1 that they will be his witnesses to the ends of the earth, and then in Acts 2, he gives them the power of the Holy Spirit, a gift necessary to fulfill that calling.

The Holy Spirit is the gift of God himself, dwelling within believers and empowering us not only to live a Christian life but also to be conduits for miracles. Each sign and wonder that the Holy Spirit does through believers points us back to the miracle of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

But let's rewind to the Great Commission. Jesus gives his followers the command to go and make disciples of all nations. That may sound impossible, but here's where we rely on God's power with faith and obedience. The Holy Spirit empowers us to do what we cannot. On the day of Pentecost, the disciples receive this incredible gift.

What we see at the beginning of Acts 2 is a miracle. The Holy Spirit falls on the disciples and they begin speaking in new tongues—new languages—in such a way that everyone hears the gospel. The crowds are amazed as each person hears “the mighty works of God” (Acts 2:11) spoken in their native tongue. More people begin to gather and, even as some skeptics doubt what's happening, God gives Peter the ability to preach effectively, and through preaching, 3,000 people repent and accept the gospel!

This same gift—the indwelling and empowering of the Spirit—is available for us today. But this gift isn't just for us. It's so the world would know the one true God. He gives us the ability to share his gospel with accuracy and boldness.

The call of the Great Commission may make us feel ill-equipped or unqualified, but God doesn't give us his mission without the Helper, the Holy Spirit. Through this gift, God can use us in miraculous ways to advance his kingdom.

**Have you ever had a personal encounter with the Holy Spirit?  
When was the last time God filled you afresh with his Spirit?**

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**How does depending on the gift of the Holy Spirit change the way you think about sharing the gospel?**

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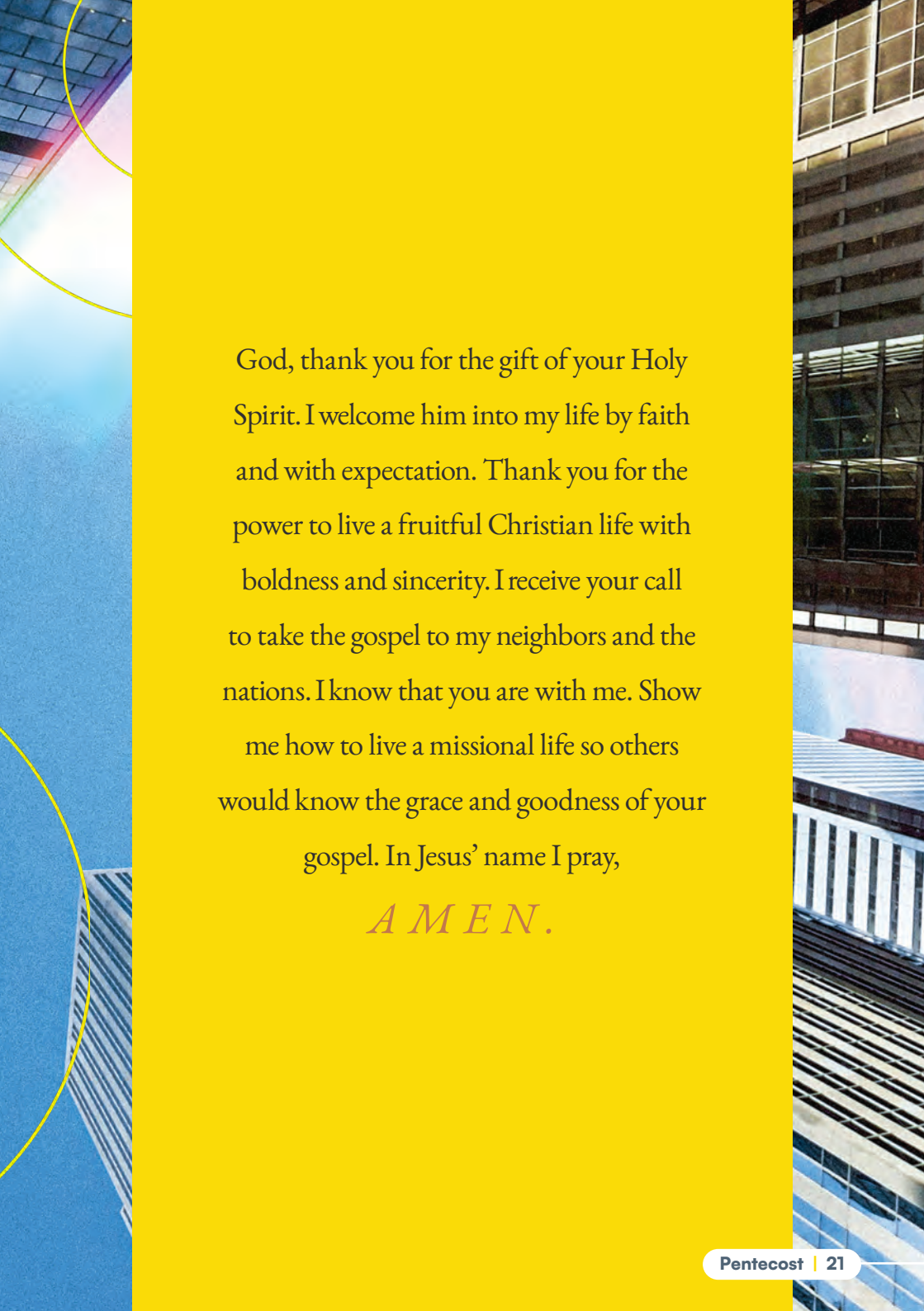
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# Faith Step

**Have an intentional gospel conversation with someone and trust the Holy Spirit to help you speak with boldness and clarity.**

A grid of 20 rows and 20 columns of small dots, intended for writing notes or reflections.





God, thank you for the gift of your Holy Spirit. I welcome him into my life by faith and with expectation. Thank you for the power to live a fruitful Christian life with boldness and sincerity. I receive your call to take the gospel to my neighbors and the nations. I know that you are with me. Show me how to live a missional life so others would know the grace and goodness of your gospel. In Jesus' name I pray,

*A M E N .*



DAY TWO:

# Healing

## Acts 3:1–10

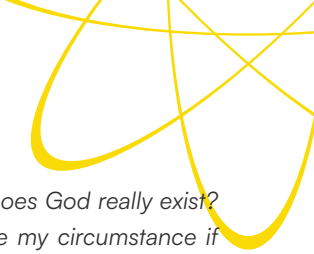
<sup>1</sup>Now Peter and John were going up to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour. <sup>2</sup>And a man lame from birth was being carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple that is called the Beautiful Gate to ask alms of those entering the temple. <sup>3</sup>Seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked to receive alms. <sup>4</sup>And Peter directed his gaze at him, as did John, and said, “Look at us.” <sup>5</sup>And he fixed his attention on them, expecting to receive something from them. <sup>6</sup>But Peter said, “I have no silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!” <sup>7</sup>And he took him by the right hand and raised him up, and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong. <sup>8</sup>And leaping up, he stood and began to walk, and entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God. <sup>9</sup>And all the people saw him walking and praising God, <sup>10</sup>and recognized him as the one who sat at the Beautiful Gate of the temple, asking for alms. And they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

## Additional Reading:

[Luke 5:17–26](#); [James 5:14–15](#); [Jeremiah 17:14](#)

When we read passages like this in scripture, it’s easy to identify with the disciples, but how does the story change if we read it from the perspective of the beggar?

For years, he had been carried by other people to the temple gate to ask for money. Since he couldn’t work, that was his only way of sustaining himself. The law at the time forbade anyone who was “unclean” from fully entering into the temple. He couldn’t go beyond the gate.



Imagine what your view of God might be if that was your reality. *Does God really exist? Does he see me? Does he care about me? Could he even change my circumstance if he wanted to?* For the lame man, each day was the same as the day before. But in one encounter, everything changed.

“Look at us,” the beggar hears as Peter and John engage him in conversation. He likely assumes that they are about to give him some money, but little does he know, he’s about to get something so much better. Peter tells him, “I have no silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!” (Acts 3:6)

Through God’s intervention, he is healed! But this moment of the miraculous does far more than just heal his body.

His physical healing gives him the ability to leap and praise and go further into the temple than he could before. More than that, it reveals to him and to others that God is not only powerful, but he’s also good. He doesn’t forget about his children. He steps into our reality to bring heaven to earth.

Those who recognize the beggar and see the miracle are filled with wonder and amazement, and that’s just the beginning. This encounter opens the door for Peter to preach to a much larger audience, and through that ministry, Acts 4:4 tells us that over 5,000 people come to believe.

As we see in this story, the outcome of the miraculous is always God’s revelation of himself so that the world might know who he is.

**Recall a time in your life when you or someone you know was miraculously healed.**

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**What reservations could be keeping you from praying for someone’s physical healing?**

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# Faith Step

**Write the names of people you know that are in need of physical healing and pray for them. If God leads you, call them and pray with them over the phone.**

A large white rectangular area containing a grid of small dots for writing.



Lord, I trust you as my healer. You are good and able to heal my sickness, pain, brokenness, and hurt. Open my eyes to see the people around me who need you. I ask that you would give me faith to pray boldly for their healing. I pray that you would be glorified and that the world might see your goodness and power. In Jesus' name,

*A M E N .*



**DAY THREE:**

# Provision

## **Acts 4:32–37**

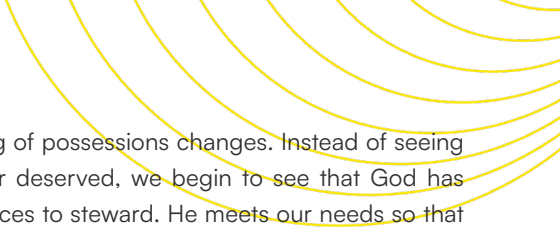
<sup>32</sup>Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common. <sup>33</sup>And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. <sup>34</sup>There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold <sup>35</sup>and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need. <sup>36</sup>Thus Joseph, who was also called by the apostles Barnabas (which means son of encouragement), a Levite, a native of Cyprus, <sup>37</sup>sold a field that belonged to him and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.

## **Additional Reading:**

**Luke 12:22–31; Exodus 16:4–16; Philippians 4:18–19; 2 Corinthians 9:6–8**

Miracles of provision are all throughout the pages of scripture, from manna in the wilderness (Exodus 16:15) to the coin in the mouth of a fish (Matthew 17:27). In fact, Jesus taught us to pray and depend on God to meet our daily needs (Luke 11:3).

When we really believe that God is our provider, it becomes easier to hold our resources with open hands.



As we grow as believers, our understanding of possessions changes. Instead of seeing what we have as things that we earned or deserved, we begin to see that God has graciously given us possessions and resources to steward. He meets our needs so that we can be a blessing and meet the needs of others. What I have been given by God isn't only for me but for the good of my brothers and sisters around me, the family of God.

In a family, everything more or less belongs to everyone. Sure, you may not share your toothbrush or socks, but it's rare that one sibling owns the couch and another owns the chair or that the parents tell their kids to ask before using the dining table. The family has those things "in common," much like the believers in Acts 4.

The miracle in this passage, that there "was not a needy person among them" (Acts 4:34), seems rather unremarkable. There's no rush of wind, no angels, no shaking meeting place, but in a sense, that's what makes it so extraordinary. This generosity makes them stand out against the culture around them—in a city where providing for others wasn't the norm, their generosity is a powerful demonstration of Christ's supernatural love and provision.

Each of us can evoke an environment like this when we live a Spirit-filled life. An outcome of the grace of God being "upon you" (Acts 4:33) is radical generosity. God will supernaturally provide for us to meet our needs, the needs of others, and to advance his kingdom.

## **Has there ever been a time that God has provided supernaturally for you? What was that experience?**

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## **How differently would you live if you had absolute confidence that God would provide everything you need?**

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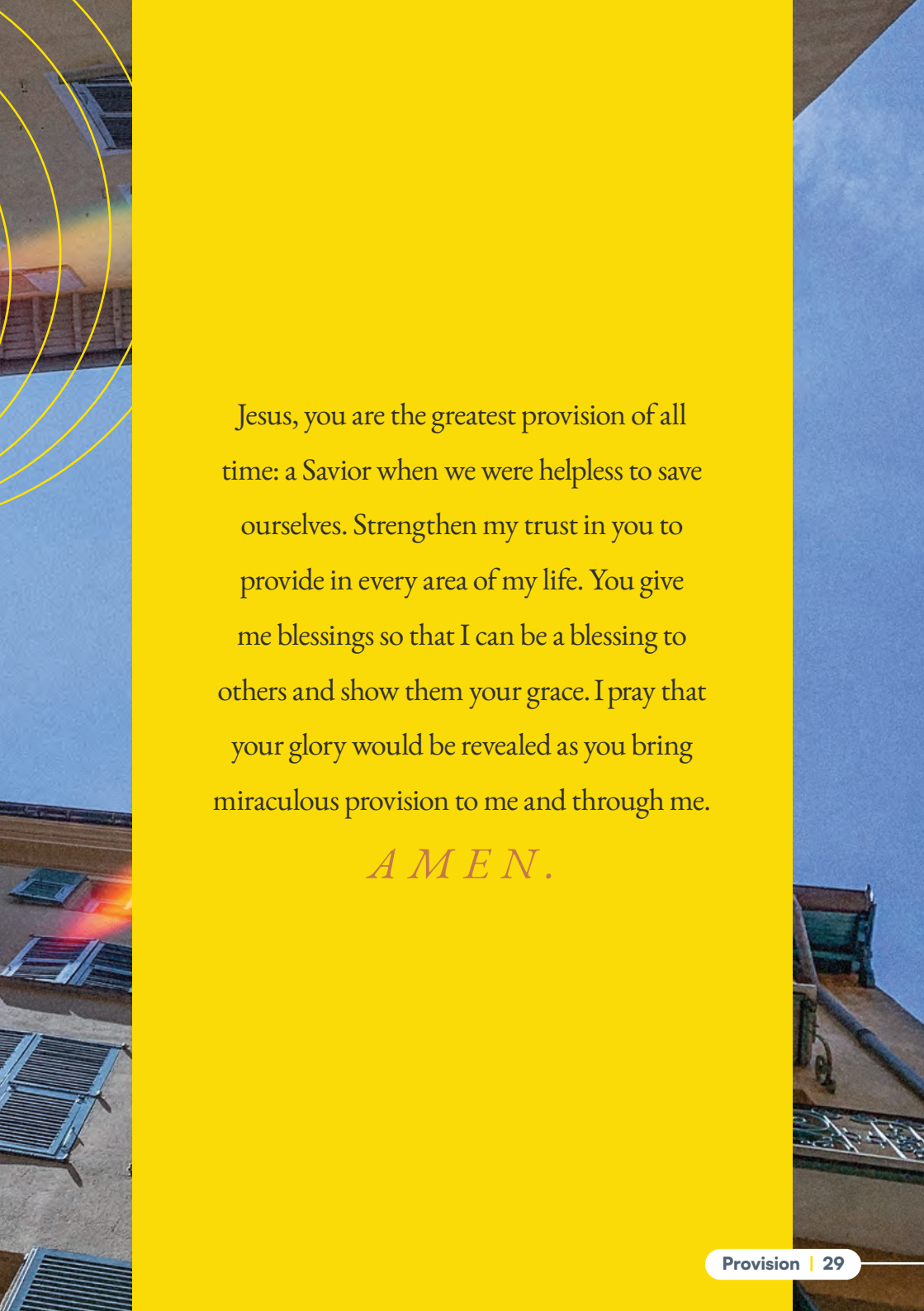
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# Faith Step

**Do you know someone who is currently in a difficult situation and is in need? Ask God how you can be part of his supernatural provision for that person.**

A large white rectangular area with a grid of small dots, intended for writing a response to the Faith Step prompt.





Jesus, you are the greatest provision of all time: a Savior when we were helpless to save ourselves. Strengthen my trust in you to provide in every area of my life. You give me blessings so that I can be a blessing to others and show them your grace. I pray that your glory would be revealed as you bring miraculous provision to me and through me.

*A M E N .*

An aerial view of a city with a rainbow over a road. The rainbow is positioned over a road that leads towards the horizon. The city buildings are visible on either side of the road. The sky is blue with some clouds.

DAY FOUR:

# Guidance

## Acts 8:26–31, 34–39

<sup>26</sup>Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” This is a desert place. <sup>27</sup>And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship <sup>28</sup>and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup>And the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over and join this chariot.” <sup>30</sup>So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” <sup>31</sup>And he said, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

<sup>34</sup>And the eunuch said to Philip, “About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” <sup>35</sup>Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup>And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, “See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?” <sup>38</sup>And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. <sup>39</sup>And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing.

## Additional Reading:

Psalm 119:105; Proverbs 3:5–6; Acts 9:10–19; Acts 16:6–10

In Acts 8, God uses Philip to perform miracles and preach in Samaria (vv. 4–25). Signs, wonders, and the gospel lead many people to repentance, and it’s clear that God is moving in significant and powerful ways. After such a fruitful time of ministry, you would



think that he would guide Philip to a larger city or bigger group of people, but that's not what happens.

God guides Philip down a road that is isolated and rarely traveled. As we learn in verse 26, Gaza was a desert place.

Philip comes out of a powerful time in Samaria and is sent on his next mission on an unpopular road towards an unpopular place. It doesn't seem to make sense, but God's guidance surpasses human logic. When Philip decides to follow his lead, God guides his path beyond anything he could have planned on his own.

Most people make big and small decisions every day. What would it look like if you asked the eternal God what his plans for your life are? Where might he send you? Who might you meet, and what might he accomplish through you?

In this story, God guides Philip away from the crowds to reach the one. Not only does he encounter a high-ranking court official on this desert road but God gives him the wisdom to explain the scriptures. God—the all-knowing Alpha and Omega—gives us guidance to be effective witnesses in the places he sends us.

The Ethiopian court official, a person of influence, was reached by an unlikely person in an unlikely place. In fact, history suggests that he took this encounter back home, impacting his city and nation with the gospel. God's plan for our lives goes beyond any plan we could make for ourselves. When we let him lead us, he brings us into situations we wouldn't have expected in order to accomplish his purposes here on earth.

Through the miracle of guidance, God gives us direction and the words to say when we need them.

**Recall a time in your life when God guided you in a decision.**

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**What is an area in your life or current situation that is in need of God's guidance?**

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# Faith Step

**Spend time in prayer and ask God if there is a specific place he is leading you to share the gospel with others.**

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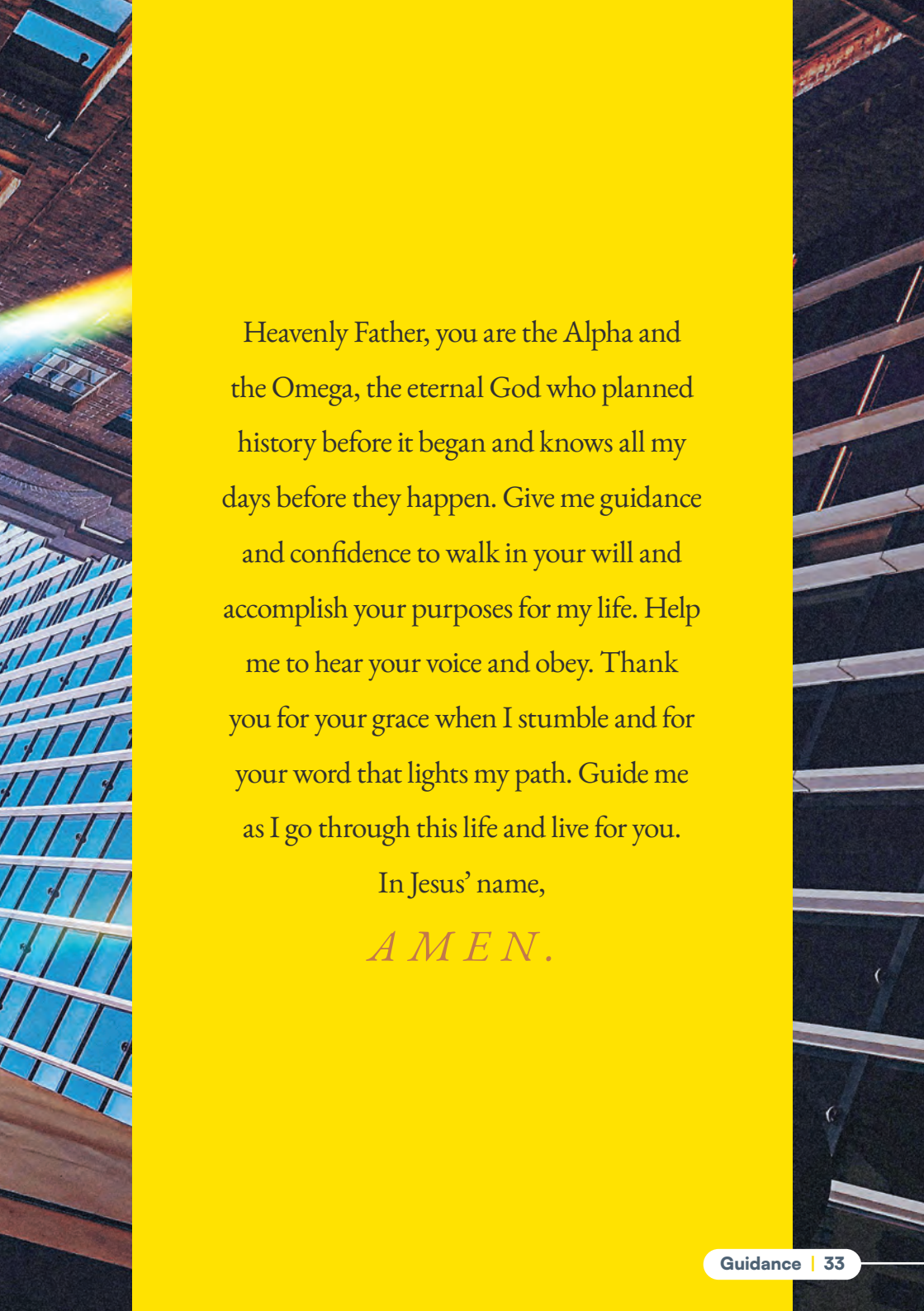
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Heavenly Father, you are the Alpha and the Omega, the eternal God who planned history before it began and knows all my days before they happen. Give me guidance and confidence to walk in your will and accomplish your purposes for my life. Help me to hear your voice and obey. Thank you for your grace when I stumble and for your word that lights my path. Guide me as I go through this life and live for you.

In Jesus' name,

*A M E N .*



*DAY FIVE:*

# Deliverance

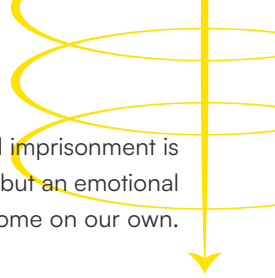
## Acts 16:25–32

<sup>25</sup>About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them, <sup>26</sup>and suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken. And immediately all the doors were opened, and everyone's bonds were unfastened. <sup>27</sup>When the jailer woke and saw that the prison doors were open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped. <sup>28</sup>But Paul cried with a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." <sup>29</sup>And the jailer called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas. <sup>30</sup>Then he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" <sup>31</sup>And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." <sup>32</sup>And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house.

## Additional Reading:

**Psalm 150:1–6; Colossians 3:16; Psalm 28:1–9; Exodus 14:13–22**

Paul and Silas are imprisoned for ministering in Philippi. They are beaten and held captive in a prison cell, their legs fastened to the floors, surrounded by other prisoners. With no windows to the outside, the inner cell where they were being kept was dark even during the day, so as midnight drew near all they could hear was the sound of chains and shackles.



For many Christians around the world today, religious persecution and imprisonment is a very real threat. Others might not experience physical imprisonment, but an emotional or mental one. We all go through desperate times that we can't overcome on our own. But in these dark times, God meets us with the miraculous.

When Paul and Silas choose to trust God in the midst of their circumstance, the prisoners' chains come undone, but that's not all that happens. Through this miracle, the jailer is also set free.

After witnessing this miracle and seeing the prisoners still in their cells, the jailer asks, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" He had seen the power and love of God firsthand. This miracle made an eternal impact in the life of the jailer and his family. It opened the door for the entire household to receive the gift of salvation. God has the power to set us free both physically and spiritually.

What's amazing is that, as we continue reading the story, we see the Holy Spirit divinely orchestrates for Paul and Silas to be released the next morning. Even in the most impossible situations, God does not forget about us. As Paul and Silas trust God, not only does he deliver them from prison but he also uses them to proclaim the gospel to an entire household.

**Think of a time when God rescued you from a dark and desperate situation. Spend time in worship thanking God for his deliverance.**

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**Is there an area of your life where you find it difficult to trust God? Pray that he would build your faith to see a breakthrough.**

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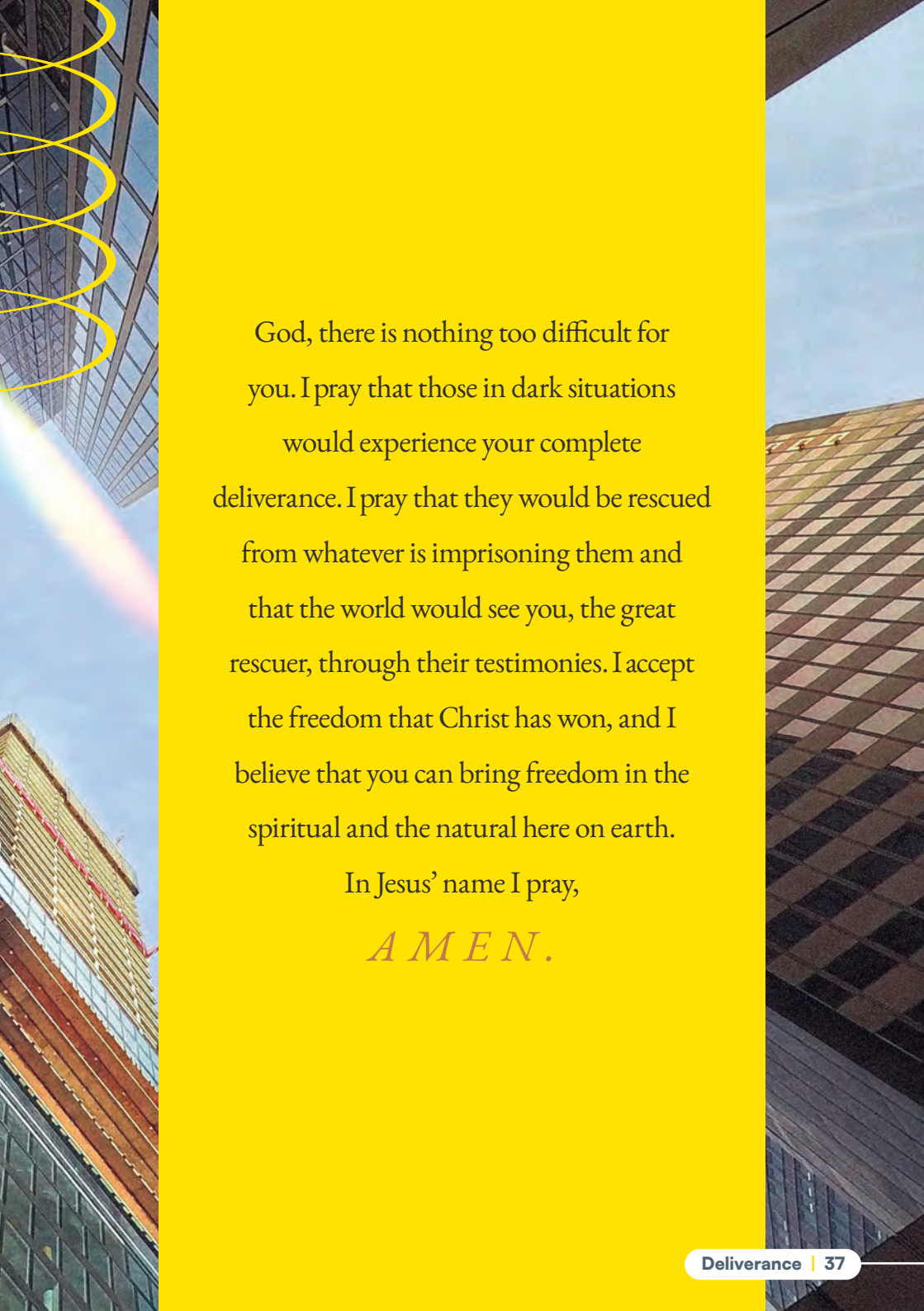


# Faith Step

**In this passage, Paul and Silas worship and pray. Spend time in worship and prayer as you intercede for someone you know who is going through a desperate situation.**

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God, there is nothing too difficult for you. I pray that those in dark situations would experience your complete deliverance. I pray that they would be rescued from whatever is imprisoning them and that the world would see you, the great rescuer, through their testimonies. I accept the freedom that Christ has won, and I believe that you can bring freedom in the spiritual and the natural here on earth.

In Jesus' name I pray,

*A M E N .*



*CONCLUSION:*

# Protection

## **Acts 28:1–9**

<sup>1</sup>After we were brought safely through, we then learned that the island was called Malta. <sup>2</sup>The native people showed us unusual kindness, for they kindled a fire and welcomed us all, because it had begun to rain and was cold. <sup>3</sup>When Paul had gathered a bundle of sticks and put them on the fire, a viper came out because of the heat and fastened on his hand. <sup>4</sup>When the native people saw the creature hanging from his hand, they said to one another, “No doubt this man is a murderer. Though he has escaped from the sea, Justice has not allowed him to live.” <sup>5</sup>He, however, shook off the creature into the fire and suffered no harm. <sup>6</sup>They were waiting for him to swell up or suddenly fall down dead. But when they had waited a long time and saw no misfortune come to him, they changed their minds and said that he was a god.

<sup>7</sup>Now in the neighborhood of that place were lands belonging to the chief man of the island, named Publius, who received us and entertained us hospitably for three days. <sup>8</sup>It happened that the father of Publius lay sick with fever and dysentery. And Paul visited him and prayed, and putting his hands on him, healed him. <sup>9</sup>And when this had taken place, the rest of the people on the island who had diseases also came and were cured.

## **Additional Reading:**

**Numbers 21:6–9; Psalm 91:13–15; Daniel 6:1–22**

As this week of prayer and fasting comes to an end, we’ve surveyed several miracles in the book of Acts. They serve not as spectacles but as a means of accomplishing the mission of God: for us to know him and make him known.

But when you live as a follower of Jesus on mission with God, you will naturally attract opposition. The miracle of God’s protection gives us comfort and confidence to live on mission.

We read in Acts 28 that while Paul is heading to Rome, he’s shipwrecked on the island of Malta. He’s bitten by a viper but miraculously survives. Just like every miracle has shown us, God is intentional. There’s a purpose underlying each miracle he performs. God protects Paul, but that’s just the start of what he does in Malta. Paul goes on to heal Publius’ father, then people from across the entire island, showing the power of God and preaching the gospel.

This “divine intervention in human affairs” goes far beyond protecting Paul from a snake bite. It extends to the healing of many to the glory of God. Paul then continues on to Rome, trusting in God’s protection and preaching the gospel with boldness and without hindrance.

When we live as followers of Jesus, we attract opposition, but we also invite God’s protection. God protects us from the schemes of the enemy in the same way he protected Paul from the viper’s venom. He is with us so that we can continue to live for him—to know God and make him known.

**With thanksgiving, reflect on a time when God protected you from a harmful situation.**

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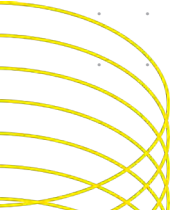
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**Are there areas in your life where you are believing God for a miracle? Take time and thank God for his love and power.**

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# Faith Step

**As we move from this week of prayer and fasting, expect God's divine intervention in your life as you live to know God and make him known to others.**

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God, thank you for intervening in this world with your miraculous power. Thank you for the gift and empowering of your Holy Spirit.

You are the mighty healer, provider, guide, deliverer, and protector that I need. You show your love to me through miracles—open my eyes that I would see your hand move. Give me boldness to be your witness in this world and share the gospel of Jesus Christ. Thank you for being with me as I live on mission with you. In Jesus' name,

*A M E N .*





# Miracles



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