

SIGNS & SEEKING

21 DAYS OF
PRAYER & FASTING

**AUGUST 17 –
SEPTEMBER 6, 2026**

CHURCH
— OF THE
LAKES





THEME SCRIPTURE

Matthew 16:3 NIV

*"You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky, but you cannot interpret the **Signs of the Times.**"*



SERIES CONNECTION

God has been leading us on a journey.

We have seen that **God has a Story** through *The Grand Narrative*.

We have discovered that **God has positioned us for purpose** through *For Such a Time as This*.

We have been reminded that **God works through every generation** through *Dr. Tim Elmore Weekend*.

We have clarified that **God has given our church a mission** through *Vision Sunday*.

Now, through **Signs of the Times**, we are asking God to help us understand the moment we are living in.

Revelation was not given to make the Church afraid. It was given to make the Church faithful.

These 21 days are not about predicting dates, chasing theories, or living in fear. They are about prayer, repentance, surrender, discernment, and mission.

The signs are not the destination. They are road signs calling us to keep moving in the right direction.



OUR PRAYER

Lord, awaken our hearts.

Refocus our church.

Purify our motives.

Strengthen our families.

Prepare us for faithful mission.

Help us to be faithful, not afraid.

In Jesus' name, amen.



HOW TO USE THIS WORKBOOK

Each day includes:

- **SCRIPTURE** – Read it slowly.
- **DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT** – Reflect on what God may be saying.
- **PRAYER FOCUS** – Pray personally and for the church.
- **FASTING FOCUS** – Surrender something to God.
- **JOURNAL PROMPT** – Write honestly.
- **TODAY'S STEP** – Take one practical step of obedience.

PERSONAL FASTING COMMITMENT

For the next 21 days, I am asking God to:

During this season, I will fast from:

I will use that time to pray for:



WHAT IS FASTING?

Fasting is temporarily setting aside something good so that we can seek Someone greater.

- Fasting is not a diet.
- Fasting is not a way to impress God.
- Fasting is not a spiritual performance.

Fasting is a way of saying:

"God, I need You more than I need comfort, convenience, routine, or control."

Some may fast from food. Some may fast from one meal a day. Some may fast from social media, entertainment, unnecessary spending, or distractions.

The goal is not simply to give something up. The goal is to make room for God.



If you have medical concerns, make wise and prayerful decisions about food-related fasting.

One area where I need greater faithfulness is:

One person I am praying for is:



WEEK ONE

CHECK ENGINE

Self-Awareness Before
Spiritual Readiness

August 17-23



DAY

1

Monday, August 17

WAKE UP

ROMANS 13:11 NIV

"The hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed."

DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT

The first step toward spiritual readiness is awakening.

It is possible to be awake physically but asleep spiritually. We can attend church, know Christian language, stay busy with ministry, and still miss what God is trying to do in us.

The **Signs of the Times** are not meant to create panic. They are God's loving reminder to check our hearts.

Before we look at culture, politics, world events, or prophecy, we must ask:

"Lord, am I spiritually awake?"

NOTES:



PRAYER FOCUS

Lord, wake up my heart. Awaken anything in me that has grown dull, distracted, or spiritually passive.



FASTING FOCUS

Fast from one distraction today and use that time to pray.



JOURNAL PROMPT

Where have I been spiritually asleep or distracted?

DAY

2

Tuesday, August 18

JESUS IN THE CENTER

REVELATION 1:12-13 NIV

"I saw seven golden lampstands, and among the lampstands was someone like a son of man..."

DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT

Revelation does not begin with beasts, bowls, or battles. **It begins with Jesus.**

Jesus is standing among the lampstands, which represent the churches. That means Jesus is not distant from His Church. He is present. He sees. He knows. He speaks.

The Church belongs to Jesus. Church of the Lakes belongs to Jesus. Our lives belong to Jesus.

Vision does not begin with our plans.
Vision begins with His presence.

NOTES:



PRAYER FOCUS

Jesus, be at the center of my life, my family, and our church.



FASTING FOCUS

Fast from self-reliance. Before making decisions today, pause and pray.



JOURNAL PROMPT

What area of my life needs Jesus back at the center?

DAY

3

Wednesday, August 19

RETURN TO FIRST LOVE

REVELATION 2:4-5 NIV

"Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first. Consider how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first."

DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT

The church in Ephesus was busy, doctrinally aware, and hardworking. But Jesus said they had lost their first love.

That is a sobering warning.

We can do the right things and lose the right heart. We can serve Jesus publicly while drifting from Him privately.

Prayer and fasting help us return. They strip away the noise and bring us back to affection, intimacy, and obedience.

NOTES:



PRAYER FOCUS

Lord, restore my first love for You.



FASTING FOCUS

Fast from religious routine. Do one thing today simply because you love Jesus.



JOURNAL PROMPT

What did my relationship with Jesus look like when my love was new and fresh?

DAY

4

Thursday, August 20

FAITHFUL UNDER PRESSURE

REVELATION 2:10 NIV

"Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you life as your victor's crown."

DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT

Jesus never promised a pressure-free life. He promised His presence and called us to faithfulness.

Faithfulness is not proven when everything is easy. Faithfulness is revealed when obedience costs something.

The goal of this series is not to make us experts in end-times charts. The goal is to make us faithful witnesses in our generation.

NOTES:



PRAYER FOCUS

Lord, make me faithful when life is hard, uncomfortable, or costly.



FASTING FOCUS

Fast from complaining today.



JOURNAL PROMPT

Where is God asking me to remain faithful under pressure?

DAY

5

Friday, August 21

SEARCH MY HEART

PSALM 139:23-24 NIV

"Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts."

DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT

Spiritual readiness begins with honesty. David did not say, "God, search everyone else." He said, "Search me."

It is easy to see what is wrong in the world. It is harder to let God reveal what is unhealthy in us.

A church that wants to discern the times must first become a people who invite God to search their hearts.

NOTES:



PRAYER FOCUS

Lord, reveal anything in me that needs confession, healing, or surrender.



FASTING FOCUS

Fast from defensiveness. Let God correct you without making excuses.



JOURNAL PROMPT

What is one thing God may be asking me to surrender?

DAY

6

Saturday, August 22

REPENTANCE IS A GIFT

2 CORINTHIANS 7:10 NIV

"Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret..."

DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT

Repentance is not punishment. Repentance is invitation.

God does not expose sin to shame us. He exposes what is unhealthy so He can heal what is broken.

The **Signs of the Times** should not make us point fingers. They should move us to humility.

Revival rarely begins with "them."
Revival usually begins with "me."

NOTES:



PRAYER FOCUS

Lord, give me a repentant heart and a humble spirit.



FASTING FOCUS

Fast from blaming others.



JOURNAL PROMPT

Where do I need to stop making excuses and start turning toward God?

DAY

7

Sunday, August 23

OPEN THE DOOR

REVELATION 3:20 NIV

"Here I am! I stand at the door and knock."

DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT

Jesus was speaking to a church.

That means it is possible for a church to have activity, reputation, and resources while Jesus is standing outside the door.

This is one of the most serious warnings in Revelation. We do not want ministry without presence. We do not want success without surrender. We do not want church without Jesus.

Today, we open the door again.

NOTES:



PRAYER FOCUS

Jesus, You are welcome here. You are welcome in my life. You are welcome in our church.



FASTING FOCUS

Fast from rushing. Slow down and listen for God.



JOURNAL PROMPT

What door do I need to open to Jesus?



WEEK TWO

YIELD AHEAD

God-Awareness Before
Human Control

August 24-30



DAY

8

Monday, August 24

THE THRONE ABOVE THE CHAOS

REVELATION 4:2 NIV

"At once I was in the Spirit, and there before me was a throne in heaven with someone sitting on it."

DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT

Revelation lifts our eyes.

Before John sees chaos on the earth, he sees a throne in heaven. That matters.

The world may feel unstable, but heaven is not nervous. God is not pacing. God is not reacting. **God is reigning.** Prayer and fasting remind us that our confidence is not in earthly systems. Our confidence is in the King who sits on the throne.

NOTES:



PRAYER FOCUS

Lord, lift my eyes above the chaos and remind me that You reign.



FASTING FOCUS

Fast from fear-driven news or media today.



JOURNAL PROMPT

What situation feels chaotic, and how does God's throne change my perspective?

DAY

9

Tuesday, August 25

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

REVELATION 4:8 NIV

"Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come."

DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT

Heaven is centered on worship.

The holiness of God puts everything else in proper perspective. We are not the center. Our preferences are not the center. Our fears are not the center. God is.

When we truly see God's holiness, pride begins to break. Worship realigns the soul.

The Church does not become faithful by becoming more impressed with the world. The Church becomes faithful by becoming more captivated by God.

NOTES:



PRAYER FOCUS

Lord, make me more aware of Your holiness.



FASTING FOCUS

Fast from entertainment for a set time and replace it with worship.



JOURNAL PROMPT

Where have I made life too much about me?

DAY

10

Wednesday, August 26

WORTHY IS THE LAMB

REVELATION 5:9 NIV

"...You are worthy... because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation."

DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT

The center of heaven is not a political power, a military power, or an economic power. The center of heaven is a slain Lamb.

Jesus conquers through sacrifice. That means the Church must never measure power the way the world measures power. We follow the Lamb. We serve. We sacrifice. We forgive. We witness. We love.

The Lamb is worthy of our obedience.

NOTES:



PRAYER FOCUS

Jesus, You are worthy of my whole life.



FASTING FOCUS

Fast from comfort. Choose one act of sacrificial service today.



JOURNAL PROMPT

What part of my life have I been holding back from Jesus?

DAY

11

Thursday, August 27

SURRENDER CONTROL

PROVERBS 3:5-6 NIV

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding..."

DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT

To yield means to surrender the right of way.

Many of us want God's blessing without yielding control. We want His guidance, but we still want to hold the steering wheel. Prayer and fasting confront our need for control.

The **Signs of the Times** remind us that we are not in charge of history. God is. Our role is not control. Our role is obedience.

NOTES:



PRAYER FOCUS

Lord, I surrender control to You.



FASTING FOCUS

Fast from trying to fix everything.



JOURNAL PROMPT

What am I trying to control that I need to surrender?

DAY
12

Friday, August 28

WORSHIP BEFORE STRATEGY

ACTS 13:2 NIV

"While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said..."

DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT

The early church received direction in an atmosphere of worship and fasting.

They did not simply brainstorm their way into mission. They worshiped. They fasted. They listened. Then they obeyed.

Vision Sunday reminded us that our church has a mission:

- Know God.
- Discover Purpose.
- Find Freedom.
- Make a Difference.

But we cannot fulfill a spiritual mission in human strength. We need the direction of the Holy Spirit.

NOTES:



PRAYER FOCUS

Holy Spirit, speak to our church and guide our next steps.



FASTING FOCUS

Fast from unnecessary noise.



JOURNAL PROMPT

What might God be saying to me during this season?

DAY

13

Saturday, August 29

THE MISSION MUST CONTINUE

MATTHEW 24:14 NIV

"And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come."

DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT

Jesus connected the end of the age to the advance of the gospel.

That means the **Signs of the Times** should not make the Church hide. They should make the Church witness.

We are not called to sit around and speculate. We are called to share Jesus, serve people, disciple families, strengthen the next generation, and reach our city.

The mission continues until Jesus comes.

NOTES:



PRAYER FOCUS

Lord, give me urgency for the gospel.



FASTING FOCUS

Fast from spiritual apathy.



JOURNAL PROMPT

Who in my life needs to hear or see the love of Jesus?

DAY
14

Sunday, August 30

EVERY TRIBE, EVERY GENERATION

REVELATION 5:9 NIV

"With your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation."

DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT

The mission of Jesus is bigger than one generation, one background, one style, or one room.

God is building a people from every tribe, language, people, and nation. That means the Church must think beyond personal preference.

At Church of the Lakes, we believe God works through every generation. Seniors, adults, young adults, students, and children all have a place in the mission.

The **Signs of the Times** call every generation to faithfulness.

NOTES:



PRAYER FOCUS

Lord, unite every generation in our church around Your mission.



FASTING FOCUS

Fast from preference. Ask God to give you love for people different from you.



JOURNAL PROMPT

How can I help bridge the gap between generations?



WEEK THREE

ROAD WORK AHEAD

Spiritual Formation
Before Public Mission
August 31–September 6



DAY

15

Monday, August 31

GOD IS WORKING IN YOU

PHILIPPIANS 1:6 NIV

"He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."

DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT

Road work can be inconvenient, but it means improvement is underway.

God's work in us is often slower than we want and deeper than we expect. He is not only changing our circumstances. He is forming our character.

The purpose of Revelation is not just information about the future. It is formation for faithfulness.

God is working in you.

NOTES:



PRAYER FOCUS

Lord, continue Your work in me.



FASTING FOCUS

Fast from impatience.



JOURNAL PROMPT

Where is God doing construction in my life right now?

DAY

16

Tuesday, September 1

RENEW MY MIND

ROMANS 12:2 NIV

"Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind."

DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT

The world is constantly discipling us.

Every day we are being shaped by what we watch, hear, scroll, repeat, and believe. If we are not intentional, culture will form us more than Christ.

Renewal requires replacement. We replace lies with truth. Fear with faith. Anger with grace. Confusion with Scripture.

A discerning church must be a transformed church.

NOTES:



PRAYER FOCUS

Lord, renew my mind with Your truth.



FASTING FOCUS

Fast from one source of negative input.



JOURNAL PROMPT

What thought pattern needs to be renewed by God's Word?

DAY
17

Wednesday, September 2

FORMED THROUGH PRESSURE

JAMES 1:2-4 NIV

"Consider it pure joy... whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance."

DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT

Pressure reveals what is inside us.

Trials are not enjoyable, but they can be formative. God uses pressure to produce perseverance, maturity, humility, and dependence.

The last days will require a Church that is not easily shaken. That kind of faith is formed before the crisis.

God may use this season to strengthen spiritual muscles we did not know we needed.

NOTES:



PRAYER FOCUS

Lord, use pressure to produce maturity in me.



FASTING FOCUS

Fast from escape. Instead of avoiding discomfort, bring it to God.



JOURNAL PROMPT

What pressure is God using to form me?

DAY

18

Thursday, September 3

WALK WISELY

EPHESIANS 5:15-16 NIV

"Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil."

DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT

Discernment is not just knowing what is wrong. Discernment is knowing how to live wisely.

Paul says to be careful how we live because the days are evil. That does not mean we live scared. It means we live awake.

Wisdom asks better questions:

- Is this forming me into Christ?
- Is this helping me love people?
- Is this moving me toward mission?
- Is this pleasing to God?

NOTES:



PRAYER FOCUS

Lord, teach me to walk wisely in this season.



FASTING FOCUS

Fast from careless words.



JOURNAL PROMPT

Where do I need more wisdom right now?

DAY

19

Friday, September 4

TEST THE VOICES

1 JOHN 4:1 NIV

"Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God..."

DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT

Not every voice is from God.

Some voices sound spiritual but lead to fear. Some voices sound confident but lead to pride. Some voices sound urgent but lead to confusion.

The closer we get to the return of Jesus, the more important discernment becomes.

We test every voice by Scripture, by the character of Jesus, by the fruit it produces, and by the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

NOTES:



PRAYER FOCUS

Lord, give me discernment to recognize truth and reject deception.



FASTING FOCUS

Fast from instantly reacting to what you hear or read.



JOURNAL PROMPT

What voices have been shaping me lately?

DAY
20 Saturday, September 5
STAND FIRM

EPHESIANS 6:13 NIV

"Put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground..."

DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT

The goal of spiritual battle is not panic. The goal is to stand firm.

Paul does not say, "Run in fear." He says, "Stand firm."

We stand in truth.
We stand in righteousness.
We stand in peace.
We stand in faith.
We stand in salvation.
We stand on the Word of God.

The Church that stands firm in private will be faithful in public.

NOTES:



PRAYER FOCUS

Lord, strengthen me to stand firm in faith.



FASTING FOCUS

Fast from fear.



JOURNAL PROMPT

Where do I need to stand firm spiritually?

DAY
21

Sunday, September 6

FAITHFUL, NOT AFRAID

REVELATION 1:5 NIV

"To Him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by His blood..."

DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT

The final word over the Church is not fear.

The final word is Jesus.

He loves us.

He freed us.

He made us His people.

He is coming again.

These 21 days have not been about temporary discipline. They have been about spiritual alignment.

We want to be a church that is awake, surrendered, transformed, discerning, and on mission.

The **Signs of the Times** are not meant to stop us in fear. They are meant to send us forward in faithfulness.



PRAYER FOCUS

Jesus, make me faithful until You come.



FASTING FOCUS

End your fast with gratitude and surrender.

WHAT IS MY NEXT STEP OF OBEDIENCE?

FINAL REFLECTION

During these 21 days, God has shown me:

The area where I need to continue growing is:

One person I will pray for and invite is:

One step I will take in the mission of Church of the Lakes is:



CLOSING PRAYER

Lord Jesus,

Thank You for meeting me during these 21 days.

Thank You for calling our church to this moment.

Help us to discern the times without being distracted by fear.

Help us to recognize the signs without missing the mission.

Keep our hearts awake.

Keep our lives surrendered.

Keep our church faithful.

Use Church of the Lakes to help people Know God, Find Freedom, Discover Purpose, and Make a Difference.

We believe You are still working.

We believe You are still building Your Church.

We believe You are coming again.

Make us faithful until that day.

In Jesus' name, amen.

DECLARATION

I will not live distracted.

I will not live afraid.

Jesus is Lord over history.

Jesus is Lord over the Church.

Jesus is Lord over my life.

I will discern the times without missing the mission.

I will be faithful where God has planted me.

For such a time as this, I will follow Jesus.



CHURCH
— OF THE —
LAKES