

# BEYOND THESE WALLS

## Week of Prayer + Fasting

“It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us...” – Acts 15:28

As a church, we are standing at a meaningful and potentially defining moment. We are considering a proposed building expansion—but this journey is not about buildings alone. It's about surrender, listening, and obedience. We are asking together:

Do we sense the Lord's blessing and affirmation of these building plans, and that they will help Gateway boldly step forward into its kingdom mission?

This week of prayer and fasting is an opportunity to walk through a biblical and Spirit-led process of communal discernment, rooted in 2 Chronicles 20—where God's people gathered in humility, sought Him together, and responded in worship.

We are also drawing from the framework presented in Ruth Haley Barton's book, *Pursuing God's Will Together*. This resource outlines how communities of faith can move beyond individual preferences and toward collective discernment, by learning to recognize God's voice together through prayer, silence, surrender, and spiritual attentiveness. This journey follows that pattern.

### **A New Practice, Rooted in Scripture**

This kind of corporate discernment may be new to us at Gateway, but it is thoroughly biblical. In Acts 15:28, the early church faced a significant decision. After prayer and discussion, they came to unity in saying, “It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us...” That phrase captures our heart in this process: to seek the will of God together, trusting that the Holy Spirit speaks not just to individuals, but to communities surrendered in prayer.

We are trusting that as we lean into Him, the Spirit will lead us.

## The Prayer Journey: **6 Movements of Discernment**

As you move through this week, you're invited to engage with six interactive prayer stations located throughout the building. Each one is based on a movement found in 2 Chronicles 20, where King Jehoshaphat led his people through crisis into trust and victory.



### 1. RECOGNIZE – The moment and the opportunity

Begin by recognizing the significance of this moment. Invite God to prepare your heart and cleanse anything that could block your ability to hear Him. Reflect on the fruit of the Spirit in your life.



### 2. RESOLVE – To trust and seek the Lord

Let go of fears, preferences, and doubts. Offer your whole self to God. Open your mind and heart to be renewed by the Spirit.



### 3. REMEMBER – God's past faithfulness

Look back on how God has provided for you and for Gateway. Give thanks for answered prayer, healing, and growth. Celebrate His consistent character.



### 4. RECEIVE + RECORD – What God is saying

Be still before the Lord. Ask Him to speak. Write down anything He reveals—whether a word, a verse, a sense of peace, or a clear direction.



### 5. REFLECT – On your response and role

Discern how you are personally being invited to respond. What step of obedience might God be asking of you? What role are you to play?



### 6. REJOICE – Worship in expectation

End with praise. Worship God for what He has done, is doing, and will do. Give thanks for His presence and power.

## Fasting & Listening

We encourage you to pair this journey with fasting, as the Spirit leads you. Fasting is a biblical way to quiet the noise of life and sharpen our spiritual attention. Whether you fast from food, screens, social media, or something else, let it be a way of saying, “Lord, I want to hear You more clearly.” (More resources on fasting are available at the Welcome Table)

## Share What You’re Hearing

This journey is both personal and communal. We are seeking the Spirit’s leading together. You are invited to share what you sense:

- Use the journals provided to reflect privately.
- Submit your discernment using the online form or place it in one of the discernment baskets located throughout the space.
- Our leadership team will be reviewing all responses prayerfully as we seek to hear the Spirit’s collective voice.

*Let this be a sacred, formative time in the life of our church. May we learn to listen deeply, respond boldly, and walk forward in unity. God is already at work. Let's follow Him together.*

# RECOGNIZE

the moment and opportunity

We stand at a significant moment as a church family. Please start this process by reading the entire chapter of II Chronicles 20.

**Some people came and told Jehoshaphat, 'A vast army is coming against you from Edom...' – 2 Chronicles 20:2**

Just like you will see in scripture, as we are facing a vast challenge we are also being invited to see what God is doing in our midst. The proposed building project is not just about bricks - but about invitation, growth and obedience.

Take a 6 page journal. We encourage you to personally journal through this prayer experience. As you begin to pray you are invited to recognize both the opportunity before us and the condition of our hearts.

This is the time to ask:

*What might prevent me from fully entering God's presence?  
What am I carrying that I need to set down?*

Before Jesus sent out His disciples, He washed their feet. In the same way, this is a place to figuratively "wash your feet" - to let the Lord remove the dust and burden of sin, shame, bitterness or distraction so you can walk freely with Him.

Take a moment of silence. Ask "Lord is there anything You want to clean up or celebrate in me today?" Use the list below to guide your confession and celebration. These are evidences of a life walking in the Spirit:

Love - Have I been unloving, harsh or self-centred?  
Joy - Have I been living with gratitude or grumbling?  
Peace - Am I anxious or striving instead of trusting?  
Patience - Have I been impatient with others or God's timing?  
Kindness - Have my words and actions reflected God's kindness?  
Goodness - Am I living with integrity?  
Faithfulness - Am I dependable in what God has entrusted to me?  
Gentleness - Have I been harsh, proud or defensive?  
Self-control - Where am I giving in to habits that don't lead to life?

Lord, where are You producing fruit in me that I can celebrate?  
Lord, where are you inviting me into deeper alignment with Your Spirit?

## PRAYER

Pause and acknowledge the weight and wonder of this opportunity.

Ask God to awaken your spirit to the significance of this moment.

Reflect on Pastor Steve's vision and Gateway's call to Kingdom mission.

God forgive me for when I've seen only obstacles and not opportunities. Open my eyes.

Why is this moment important to me or our church?

**Consider our CURRENT SITE.** What are the needs? Take some time to journal these.

Parking?

Seating?

Gathering Spaces?

Ministry needs?

# RESOLVE

to trust and seek the Lord

**Jehoshaphat resolved to inquire of the Lord, and he proclaimed a fast for all Judah. – 2 Chronicles 20:3**

This station invites you to bring your honest emotions before God - hopes, fears, resistance and questions. Let go of your own preferences and open your heart and will for Gateway.

Choose to trust.  
Choose to seek.  
Choose to surrender.

Ask the Spirit to purify your motives and expectations.

Pray through Romans 12:1-2

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. 2 Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Journal what you are feeling - fear, excitement, doubts.

**Place them in the basket provided. Say, “*I lay this down.*”**

“God, help me to release...” “God, I’m trusting you for...”

# REMEMBER

God's past faithfulness

**Lord, the God of our ancestors...did you not drive out the inhabitants... and give it forever to the descendants of Abraham your friend?" – 2 Chronicles 20:6–7**

Jehoshaphat reminded the people of God's track record. Here we do the same. Let's remember the answered prayers, the miraculous provision, the growth, the healing.

Reflect on God's character and consistency.

Thank Him for His care over Gateway's past.

Celebrate how He's shown Himself faithful - in your life and our church family.

## Testimony Wall

Take some time to look at the photos from our first church build.

Write your remembering on the paper provided on the wall.  
Share how God has come through in your life.

Answered prayer.

Miracles seen.

Freedom.

Growth.

Healing.

**Mark 5:19 - Jesus did not let him, but said, "Go home to your own people and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you."**

# RECEIVE + RECORD

what God is saying

**All the men of Judah...stood there before the Lord... Then the Spirit of the Lord came... – 2 Chronicles 20:13-15**

This is a place of listening, not speaking. God speaks through His Word, through silence and through inner listening. Come with expectancy and stillness.

Ask God:

“What are you saying to us?”

“Do we sense the Lord’s blessing and affirmation of the proposed building plans and that they will enable Gateway to boldly step forward into its kingdom vision?”

Sit in silence. Open your heart.

Consider how you feel. Are you feeling consolation or desolation as you think about the building?

Journal what you sense the Spirit is saying.

“I sense the Lord I saying...”

“This verse stood out to me because...”



# REFLECT

together on what this means

**Jehoshaphat bowed down with his face to the ground, and all the people... fell down in worship. – 2 Chronicles 20:18**

Once we've listened, we must respond. What now? What does faithfulness look like - individually and collectively?

Lay down your fears. Pick up faith.

Ask God to help the church move forward in unity.

Reflect on how your life connects with Gateway's next chapter.

"My next step of obedience might be..."

Hold each piece of building material. Pray over these things.

What role will I take in this project?

Take a card and put it on the wall with your call to obedience. Lay the cards like bricks. Let's trust God to build our faith, brick by brick.

# REJOICE

and move forward in expectation

***As they began to sing and praise, the Lord set ambushes... and they were defeated. – 2 Chronicles 20:22***

Take the time to read through II Chronicles 20 again.

We end as Judah did—with worship. This is not the end of a process; it's the beginning of bold steps. God is faithful. His mission continues

Thank God for His direction and wisdom.

Worship Him IN ADVANCE for what He will do through this expansion.

Declare your trust and joy in His power and provision.

“I praise You because...”

Worship here. Engage with musical worship. Draw, write or express your worship.