Rivers of Life

THE TURNING POINT
WILL ALIGNMENT IV

Experiencing God: Knowing and Doing His Will

40 Days of Fasting, Prayer, Study & Corporate Alignment

December 1, 2026 – January 10, 2027

This workbook belongs to

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Will Alignment 4: Experiencing God for His Will
A 40-Day Journey of Prayer, Fasting, and Spiritual Alignment

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Prepared for Rivers of Life
Under the leadership of Apostle M. Queeni Green

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This guide is designed to facilitate spiritual growth, biblical reflection, prayer, fasting, and alignment with the will of God.

This publication is an independently developed spiritual resource inspired in part by *Experiencing God: Knowing and Doing the Will of God* by Henry Blackaby, Richard Blackaby, and Claude King. It is not an official companion guide and is not affiliated with or endorsed by the authors or publishers.

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Welcome

From December 1, 2026 through January 10, 2027 (excluding Christmas Day), we will fast, pray, and study together to recognize where God is at work, align ourselves with His will, and join Him there.

Our purpose: To deepen our relationship with God, discern His will, surrender our personal agendas, and intentionally align ourselves with His purposes.

Our individual goal: To recognize God's activity, discern His voice, respond in faith, and make the necessary adjustments to walk in obedience.

Our corporate goal: To become a unified body of believers who recognize where God is working and actively participate together in His Kingdom assignment.

Focus scripture: Romans 12:1–2. Supporting scripture: John 5:19.

Central declaration: We will not ask God to align Himself with our plans. We will align ourselves with His will.

Our guide: *Experiencing God: Knowing and Doing the Will of God* by Henry Blackaby, Richard Blackaby, and Claude King. The book's core message is simple: find out where God is working and join Him. Purchasing the book is optional. This guide contains everything necessary to complete the fast and consecration.

Each week has one memory verse and one or two of the book's "seven realities." Each week also lists two of the workbook's 12 units as optional companion reading, so the whole book is covered in six weeks.

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The Seven Realities

1. God is always at work around you.
2. God pursues a continuing, real, and personal love relationship with you.
3. God invites you to join Him in His work.
4. God speaks through the Holy Spirit, the Bible, prayer, circumstances, and the church to reveal Himself, His purposes, and His ways.
5. God's invitation leads to a crisis of belief that calls for faith and action.
6. Joining God requires major adjustments in your life.
7. You come to know God through experience as you obey Him and He works through you.

How to use each daily page

Set aside 30 to 45 minutes each day, ideally at the same time. Each day includes:

- **Read:** the day's scripture passages, slowly. Read them twice if you can.
- **Lesson:** a short teaching drawn from the week's reality.
- **Reflect:** questions to answer honestly before God.
- **Journal:** one prompt to write about. Date every entry.
- **Pray and listen:** a prayer focus, then at least 5 minutes of silence. Write down anything God brings to mind, including scriptures, people, or impressions, and test them against His Word.

Recite the week's memory verse each morning and night. Scripture quotations are taken from The Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

Medical Disclaimer

Please read before you begin. This guide is a spiritual resource. It is not medical advice, and the church leaders who share it are not providing medical care. Fasting affects every body differently. Talk with your doctor before you start any fast, especially one lasting 40 days.

Do not follow the one-meal fast without your doctor's approval if you:

- Have diabetes, low blood sugar, or any condition affecting blood sugar
- Are pregnant, trying to become pregnant, or breastfeeding
- Have, or have had, an eating disorder
- Have heart, kidney, or liver disease, or low blood pressure
- Take prescription medicine, especially medicine that must be taken with food
- Are under 18, over 65, underweight, or recovering from illness or surgery
- Do heavy physical labor or intense exercise

Stop fasting and seek medical help if you have: dizziness or fainting, a racing or irregular heartbeat, chest pain, confusion, severe headache, severe weakness, or signs of dehydration (very dark urine, little or no urine, extreme thirst).

There are other ways to take part. If the one-meal fast is not safe for you, you are still fully part of this fast. Choose a partial fast your doctor approves, such as giving up sweets, a specific food, or one meal. The media fast, daily study, prayer, and weekly calls are open to everyone. God looks at the heart, not the size of the sacrifice.

Getting ready: In the days before December 1, cut back on caffeine and sugar gradually to ease headaches. Keep taking any prescribed medicine as directed unless your doctor tells you otherwise.

Fasting Guidelines

Food: one meal a day, finished by 6:00 p.m.

- If medically appropriate and approved by your clinician, eat one meal each day and finish it by 6:00 p.m. Otherwise, follow your approved alternative.
- Make it a balanced, nourishing meal with protein, vegetables, fruit, and whole grains. This is not a time to skip nutrition.
- Before you eat, pause and thank God. Let each meal remind you that He is your true source of life (Matthew 4:4).
- When hunger comes, turn it into prayer. Pray the week's memory verse. Remember: a Will Alignment forces the flesh to comply.

Fluids: drink plenty all day

- Drink plenty of water throughout the day, every day.
- Plain water is encouraged; unsweetened lemon water is optional if tolerated.
- No soda and no sugary drinks, including sweet tea, juice drinks, sports drinks, energy drinks, and sweetened coffee drinks.

Media fast

For all 40 days, set aside:

- Social media (all platforms)
- Digital games (phone, computer, and console)
- Television and streaming shows

Use the reclaimed time for scripture, prayer, journaling, and time with family and church members. Consider deleting apps or logging out until January 11. Phone calls, texts, email, and work needs are fine.

Christmas Day

Friday, December 25 is not a fast day. There is no lesson. Celebrate the birth of Jesus with your family and enjoy your Christmas meal with gratitude. The fast resumes on Saturday, December 26 as Day 25.

If you slip

If you miss a fasting commitment, do not quit. Receive God’s grace and resume when safe. A medically necessary adjustment is not a spiritual failure.

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Calendar, memory verses, and weekly prayer calls

Six weeks, six memory verses, and one prayer call each week. Calls are on Mondays at 7:00 p.m. The final call is Monday, January 11, the day after the fast ends. Mark your attendance on each week's prayer call page.

Weekly call: Mondays at 7:00 p.m., December 7 through January 11 · **Dial-in only:** (508) 924-2034

Week	Dates	Days	Memory verse	Theme	Optional reading	Prayer call	Prayer leader
1	Dec 1–7	1–7	John 15:5	Alignment through Abiding	Units 1–2	Mon, Dec 7	Pastor Lisa Wilburn
2	Dec 8–14	8–14	Luke 14:33	Alignment through Surrender	Units 3–4	Mon, Dec 14	Evangelist Claudia Clark
3	Dec 15–21	15–21	John 14:23	Alignment through Relationship	Units 5–6	Mon, Dec 21	Prophetess Andrea Butler
4	Dec 22–28 (no Dec 25)	22–27	John 14:21	Alignment through Revelation	Units 7–8	Mon, Dec 28	Pastor Rahshawn Evans
5	Dec 29–Jan 4	28–34	John 5:19	Alignment through Adjustment	Units 9–10	Mon, Jan 4	Deaconess Rose Pierce Jones
6	Jan 5–10	35–40	Hebrews 10:24–25	Alignment through Obedience	Units 11–12	Mon, Jan 11	Apostle M. Queeni Green

Memory verses (NIV)

- **Week 1 — John 15:5:** "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."
- **Week 2 — Luke 14:33:** "In the same way, those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciples."
- **Week 3 — John 14:23:** "Jesus replied, 'Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.'"
- **Week 4 — John 14:21:** "Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them."
- **Week 5 — John 5:19:** "Jesus gave them this answer: 'Very truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does.'"
- **Week 6 — Hebrews 10:24–25:** "And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

Weekly Call Outline

1. **Welcome and opening prayer**
2. **Memory verse:** recite it together
3. **Testimonies:** where have you seen God at work this week?
4. **Discussion:** the week's call questions, listed at the end of each week
5. **Prayer:** for one another, the church, and the week ahead

Call etiquette: mute when not speaking, keep shares to about 2 minutes, and keep what is shared confidential.

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WEEK 1

Alignment through Abiding

Dec 1–7

MEMORY VERSE

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."

John 15:5 (NIV)

Reality 1: God is always at work around you.

Optional reading: Units 1–2

This week we stop trying to do things *for* God and learn to stay connected *to* Him. Fruit is the result of abiding, not striving.

THIS WEEK

Day 1 · Tue, Dec 1 · Apart from Me, you can do nothing
Day 2 · Wed, Dec 2 · God-centered, not self-centered
Day 3 · Thu, Dec 3 · God is always at work
Day 4 · Fri, Dec 4 · Jesus is the way
Day 5 · Sat, Dec 5 · Waiting on God
Day 6 · Sun, Dec 6 · Clay in the Potter's hands
Day 7 · Mon, Dec 7 · Fruit that remains
Weekly prayer call · Mon, Dec 7

WRITE THE VERSE FROM MEMORY

DAY 1 · Tue, Dec 1

Apart from Me, you can do nothing

READ **John 15:1–8; Psalm 127:1**

Jesus says that apart from Him we can do nothing. Not "less" — nothing of eternal value. Blackaby teaches that God's will begins with a relationship, not a plan. A branch doesn't strain to produce grapes; it stays joined to the vine. Today we begin 40 days of staying joined.

REFLECT

- Where have I been working hard for God but not abiding in Him?

- What would "remaining" in Jesus look like in my ordinary day?

JOURNAL

Write why you are fasting. What do you want God to do in you, and in our church, by January 10?

PRAY AND LISTEN

Offer these 40 days to God. Ask Him to prune whatever keeps you from bearing fruit. Sit quietly for 5 minutes and write what comes to mind.

What I sensed God saying:

DAY 2 · Wed, Dec 2

God-centered, not self-centered

READ **Isaiah 55:8–9; Proverbs 3:5–6; Matthew 16:21–23**

Peter meant well, but he was thinking from a human point of view. A self-centered life asks, "What do I want to do for God?" A God-centered life asks, "What is God doing, and how does He want me involved?" God's ways are higher than ours, so we trust Him before we understand Him.

REFLECT

- Which of my decisions this year were made from my point of view rather than God's?

- Where am I leaning on my own understanding right now?

JOURNAL

List three plans you are holding for 2027. Next to each, write: "Did I ask God first?"

PRAY AND LISTEN

Surrender each plan on your list to God by name. Ask Him to show you His perspective on one of them.

What I sensed God saying:

DAY 3 · Thu, Dec 3

God is always at work

READ **John 5:17; Philippians 2:13; 2 Kings 6:15–17**

Jesus said His Father is always working. God is not waiting for us to start something; He is already moving in our families, workplaces, and city. Like Elisha's servant, we often need our eyes opened to see what He is doing. The question is not *whether* God is at work, but *where*.

REFLECT

- Where might God be at work around me that I have overlooked?

- Who in my life is asking spiritual questions or showing new interest in God?

JOURNAL

Write the names of three people or situations where you sense God may be working.

PRAY AND LISTEN

Pray Elisha's prayer: "Open my eyes, Lord, so that I may see." Ask God to show you one place He is working today.

What I sensed God saying:

DAY 4 · Fri, Dec 4

Jesus is the way

READ **John 14:6; Psalm 37:4–7; Genesis 12:1–4**

Abram was told to go without being told where he was going. God gave him a relationship before He gave him a map. Blackaby stresses that knowing God's will is not about finding a formula. Jesus Himself is the way. When we follow Him closely each day, we will be where He wants us.

REFLECT

- Do I want God's directions more than I want God?

- What step of obedience is in front of me even though I can't see the whole path?

JOURNAL

Write about a time God led you one step at a time. What did you learn about Him?

PRAY AND LISTEN

Tell Jesus you will follow Him even without the full plan. Listen for one next step.

What I sensed God saying:

DAY 5 · Sat, Dec 5

Waiting on God

READ **Psalm 46:10; Isaiah 40:28–31; Psalm 27:14**

Our culture rewards activity, so stillness feels unproductive. But God often says, "Be still and know." Waiting is not doing nothing; it is actively looking to God until He shows the next move. This week without screens may feel quiet. Let the quiet become a place to hear Him.

REFLECT

- How has the media fast affected me so far? What has filled the space?

- What am I tempted to rush ahead on instead- of waiting for God?

JOURNAL

Describe what stillness has felt like this week, honestly — including the hard parts.

PRAY AND LISTEN

Spend 10 minutes in silence today. Don't ask for anything. Simply be with God.

What I sensed God saying:

DAY 6 · Sun, Dec 6

Clay in the Potter's hands

READ **Jeremiah 18:1–6; Romans 12:1–2; 2 Timothy 2:20–21**

A servant of God is like clay: moldable and available. The clay does not tell the potter what to make. Fasting softens us, reminding us of our dependence and making us more responsive to God's hand. Offer yourself today as a living sacrifice, ready for whatever He shapes.

REFLECT

- Where am I resisting God's shaping?

- Am I available to God, or only available on my terms?

JOURNAL

Finish this sentence several ways: "Lord, You can use me for…"

PRAY AND LISTEN

Pray Romans 12:1–2 over your life. Ask God to begin renewing your mind during this fast.

What I sensed God saying:

DAY 7 · Mon, Dec 7

Fruit that remains

READ **John 15:9–17; Galatians 5:22–23**

Jesus chose us to bear fruit that lasts. The fruit of the Spirit grows in community: love, patience, and kindness only show up when we are with other people. As a church, we are branches on the same Vine. Our unity flows from each of us staying connected to Jesus.

REFLECT

- Which fruit of the Spirit is God growing in me this week?

- How does my abiding (or not) affect the people in my church?

JOURNAL

Review this week's entries. Where did you see God at work?

PRAY AND LISTEN

Pray for three members of our church by name. Ask God to make us one body joined to one Vine.

What I sensed God saying:

WEEK 1 · MON, DEC 7

Weekly Prayer Call

Call time: Mon, Dec 7 at 7:00 p.m. **Dial-in only:** (508) 924-2034

Did you participate? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Prayer Leader: Pastor Lisa Wilburn

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Where did you see God at work this week?

2. What has been hardest about the food and media fast? What has surprised you?

3. What does "apart from me you can do nothing" mean for how our church makes plans?

4. Recite John 15:5 together.

PRAYER REQUESTS

WEEK 2

Alignment through Surrender

Dec 8–14

MEMORY VERSE

"In the same way, those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciples."

Luke 14:33 (NIV)

Reality 3: God invites you to join Him in His work.

Optional reading: Units 3–4

God's invitation is costly. This week we open our hands and release whatever we have been holding back, so we are free to say yes when He calls.

THIS WEEK

Day 8 · Tue, Dec 8 · Counting the cost
Day 9 · Wed, Dec 9 · The one thing you lack
Day 10 · Thu, Dec 10 · Lord, not just Savior
Day 11 · Fri, Dec 11 · Leaving the nets
Day 12 · Sat, Dec 12 · Mary's yes
Day 13 · Sun, Dec 13 · Abraham on the mountain
Day 14 · Mon, Dec 14 · A surrendered church
Weekly prayer call · Mon, Dec 14

WRITE THE VERSE FROM MEMORY

DAY 8 · Tue, Dec 8

Counting the cost

READ **Luke 14:25–33; Luke 9:57–62**

Jesus never hid the cost of following Him. He compared discipleship to building a tower or going to war: you count the cost first. He asks for everything, not a percentage. That sounds hard, but what we give Him is safer in His hands than in ours.

REFLECT

- What have I been unwilling to give Jesus?

- Have I followed Jesus only as far as it is comfortable?

JOURNAL

Write Luke 14:33 in your own words. What does "give up everything you have" mean for you this week?

PRAY AND LISTEN

Ask the Holy Spirit to show you anything you are holding back. Write down what He reveals without arguing.

What I sensed God saying:

DAY 9 · Wed, Dec 9

The one thing you lack

READ **Mark 10:17–27; Matthew 6:19–21, 24**

The rich young ruler kept the rules but could not let go of his wealth. Jesus looked at him and loved him, then pointed to the one thing that ruled his heart. Our "one thing" may be money, comfort, reputation, a relationship, or control. Jesus asks for it because He loves us.

REFLECT

- If Jesus looked at me with love and named my "one thing," what would it be?

- Where is my treasure, judging by how I spend my time and money?

JOURNAL

Write a letter to God about your "one thing." Be honest about why it is hard to release.

PRAY AND LISTEN

Pray Mark 10:27: "All things are possible with God." Ask Him to make you willing.

What I sensed God saying:

DAY 10 · Thu, Dec 10

Lord, not just Savior

READ **Luke 6:46–49; Philippians 3:7–11**

Jesus asked, "Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?" Calling Him Lord means He sets the direction and we follow. Paul counted everything as loss compared to knowing Christ. Blackaby notes that when Jesus is truly Lord, His invitations stop feeling like interruptions and start feeling like privileges.

REFLECT

- In which area of my life am I still in charge?

- Is there something Jesus has told me to do that I have not done?

JOURNAL

Make two columns: "Areas I have surrendered" and "Areas I still control." Be specific.

PRAY AND LISTEN

Take one item from the "still control" column and give it to Jesus out loud. Listen for His response.

What I sensed God saying:

DAY 11 · Fri, Dec 11

Leaving the nets

READ **Matthew 4:18–22; Luke 5:1–11**

Peter, Andrew, James, and John left their nets immediately. They didn't know where Jesus would take them, but they knew Him enough to go. God's invitation to join Him usually comes in the middle of normal life — at work, at home, by the lake. Our job is to recognize it and respond.

REFLECT

- What "nets" might Jesus be asking me to put down?

- Have I sensed an invitation from God recently that I ignored or delayed?

JOURNAL

Describe a time you responded quickly to God. Then describe a time you delayed. What was the difference?

PRAY AND LISTEN

Ask God, "Is there an invitation in front of me right now?" Wait quietly and write what comes.

What I sensed God saying:

DAY 12 · Sat, Dec 12

Mary's yes

READ **Luke 1:26–38, 46–55**

In this Advent season, Mary shows us what surrender looks like. Gabriel's message would cost her reputation and reshape her future. Her answer was simple: "I am the Lord's servant. May your word to me be fulfilled." God's greatest work came through a young woman who said yes.

REFLECT

- What would it take for me to answer God the way Mary did?

- What fears keep me from saying yes?

JOURNAL

Write your own "Magnificat." (A short prayer praising God for what He has done in your life.)

PRAY AND LISTEN

Pray Mary's words as your own: "I am the Lord's servant. May your word to me be fulfilled."

What I sensed God saying:

DAY 13 · Sun, Dec 13

Abraham on the mountain

READ **Genesis 22:1–14; Hebrews 11:17–19**

God asked Abraham for the son of promise. Abraham obeyed, trusting that God could even raise Isaac from the dead. On the mountain, God provided the sacrifice. When we release the good things God has given us–we discover He is our Provider, not the gift itself.

REFLECT

- Is there a good gift from God that I now hold tighter than God Himself?

- Where do I need to trust that "the Lord will provide"?

JOURNAL

Name your "Isaac." Write what it would mean to place it on the altar.

PRAY AND LISTEN

Thank God for His gifts, then surrender them back to Him one by one.

What I sensed God saying:

DAY 14 · Mon, Dec 14

A surrendered church

READ **Acts 2:42–47; Acts 4:32–35**

The early church held its possessions loosely and its people closely. No one claimed anything as their own, and no one was in need. Surrender is not only personal; it shapes a church. When each member says "everything is Yours, Lord," the body becomes generous, united, and powerful in witness.

REFLECT

- What would change in our church if we held everything loosely?

- How can I share what I have with someone in our church this week?

JOURNAL

Reflect on the week. What did you surrender, and what did God give you in return?

PRAY AND LISTEN

Pray for our church to be "one in heart and mind." Ask God to show you one practical way to give.

What I sensed God saying:

WEEK 2 · MON, DEC 14

Weekly Prayer Call

Call time: Mon, Dec 14 at 7:00 p.m. **Dial-in only:** (508) 924-2034

Did you participate? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Prayer Leader: Evangelist Claudia Clark

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What has God asked you to release this week? (Share only what you are comfortable sharing.)

2. Have you sensed any invitation from God to join Him?

3. What would a fully surrendered church look like in our city?

4. Recite Luke 14:33 together.

PRAYER REQUESTS

WEEK 3

Alignment through Relationship

Dec 15–21

MEMORY VERSE

"Jesus replied, 'Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.'"

John 14:23 (NIV)

Reality 2: God pursues a continuing love relationship with you that is real and personal.

Optional reading: Units 5–6

Everything God asks of us flows out of His love. This week we return to our first love and learn that obedience is love's natural response, not its price.

THIS WEEK

Day 15 · Tue, Dec 15 · Loved first
Day 16 · Wed, Dec 16 · Return to your first love
Day 17 · Thu, Dec 17 · Love keeps His word
Day 18 · Fri, Dec 18 · God at home in you
Day 19 · Sat, Dec 19 · The one thing needed
Day 20 · Sun, Dec 20 · With all your heart
Day 21 · Mon, Dec 21 · Love that unites
Weekly prayer call · Mon, Dec 21

WRITE THE VERSE FROM MEMORY

DAY 15 · Tue, Dec 15

Loved first

READ **Jeremiah 31:3; 1 John 4:9–10, 19; Romans 5:8**

God pursued us before we ever looked for Him. Blackaby calls this love relationship the foundation of everything else: if the relationship is right, God's will follows naturally. Before you ask God what He wants you to *do*, settle into the truth that you are deeply and personally loved.

REFLECT

- Do I really believe God loves me, or do I feel I must earn His love?

- When did I first experience God pursuing me?

JOURNAL

Write your story of how God drew you to Himself.

PRAY AND LISTEN

Ask God to make His love real to you today. Sit in silence and simply receive.

What I sensed God saying:

DAY 16 · Wed, Dec 16

Return to your first love

READ **Revelation 2:1–5; Hosea 2:14–16**

The church at Ephesus was busy, orthodox, and enduring, yet Jesus said they had left their first love. Activity can replace affection without our noticing. Blackaby teaches that if your love relationship with God is not right, nothing else in your life will be right. God's remedy is simple: remember, repent, and return.

REFLECT

- Has my service for God crowded out my love for God?

- What did my relationship with Jesus look like when it was most alive?

JOURNAL

Use Jesus' three steps: write what you remember, what you need to repent of, and how you will return.

PRAY AND LISTEN

Tell God honestly how much you love Him today. Ask Him to rekindle it.

What I sensed God saying:

DAY 17 · Thu, Dec 17

Love keeps His word

READ **John 14:15–24; 1 John 5:3**

Jesus links love and obedience: if we love Him, we will obey His teaching. Obedience is not how we earn love; it is how love shows itself. If we struggle to obey, the deeper issue is usually love. Blackaby puts it plainly: an obedience problem is really a love problem.

REFLECT

- Where is my obedience lagging? What does that reveal about my love?

- Do God's commands feel like burdens or gifts?

JOURNAL

Write about one command of Jesus you find hard to keep. Then write what it would look like to obey it out of love.

PRAY AND LISTEN

Ask God to deepen your love so obedience becomes a joy. Listen for one specific way to obey Him today.

What I sensed God saying:

DAY 18 · Fri, Dec 18

God at home in you

READ **John 14:23; Ephesians 3:14–19; Revelation 3:20**

The Father and the Son promise to make their home with those who love and obey. God doesn't want to be a visitor in your life; He wants to live there. Paul prays that Christ would dwell in our hearts through faith, so we can grasp how wide and deep His love is.

REFLECT

- Is God a welcome resident in every room of my life, or only a guest in some?

- Which "room" have I kept closed to Him?

JOURNAL

Picture your life as a house. Describe each room and whether Jesus is at home there.

PRAY AND LISTEN

Pray Ephesians 3:14–19 for yourself, then for our church.

What I sensed God saying:

DAY 19 · Sat, Dec 19

The one thing needed

READ **Luke 10:38–42; Psalm 27:4**

Martha served Jesus; Mary sat with Jesus. Jesus said Mary had chosen the better part. In the busiest season of the year, it is easy to be Martha. The fast is an invitation to be Mary: to slow down, sit at His feet, and listen.

REFLECT

- This Christmas season, am I more like Martha or Mary?

- What "many things" are distracting me from the one thing?

JOURNAL

Write what you would say to Jesus if you sat at His feet for an hour. Then write what you think He would say back.

PRAY AND LISTEN

Spend 15 minutes "at His feet" today: no requests, just worship and listening.

What I sensed God saying:

DAY 20 · Sun, Dec 20

With all your heart

READ **Deuteronomy 6:4–9; Mark 12:28–31**

The greatest command is to love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength. Love is not only feeling; it involves our thoughts, choices, and energy. Fasting is one way we love God with our body, saying with our hunger that He matters more than food.

REFLECT

- Which part of me — heart, soul, mind, or strength — is least surrendered in love?

- How has fasting become an act of love for God?

JOURNAL

Write a love letter to God.

PRAY AND LISTEN

Worship God today by naming His attributes. Use a psalm if words are hard.

What I sensed God saying:

DAY 21 · Mon, Dec 21

Love that unites

READ **John 13:34–35; 1 John 4:7–12; Colossians 3:12–14**

Jesus said the world would know we are His disciples by our love for one another. Our love for God is proved in how we love His people. Love is the bond that holds a church together. Unity is not sameness; it is love in action across our differences.

REFLECT

- Is there anyone in our church I need to forgive or reconcile with?

- How can I show Christ's love to a church member this week?

JOURNAL

Write the name of someone you find hard to love. Ask God how to love them as He does.

PRAY AND LISTEN

Pray blessings over that person by name. Ask God to make our church known for love.

What I sensed God saying:

WEEK 3 · MON, DEC 21

Weekly Prayer Call

Call time: Mon, Dec 21 at 7:00 p.m. **Dial-in only:** (508) 924-2034.

Did you participate? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Prayer Leader: Prophetess Andrea Butler

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How has God shown you His love this week?

2. Has your love for God grown cold in any area? How are you returning?

3. What practical steps can we take to love one another better as a church?

4. Recite John 14:23 together.

PRAYER REQUESTS

WEEK 4

Alignment through Revelation

Dec 22–28

MEMORY VERSE

"Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them."

John 14:21 (NIV)

Reality 4: God speaks by the Holy Spirit through the Bible, prayer, circumstances, and the church.

Reality 5: God's invitation leads to a crisis of belief that requires faith and action.

Optional reading: Units 7–8

Jesus promised to reveal Himself to those who love and obey Him. At Christmas we celebrate the God who revealed Himself in a manger. This week we learn how He still speaks, and what it takes to believe Him.

THIS WEEK

Day 22 · Tue, Dec 22 · God speaks through the Bible
Day 23 · Wed, Dec 23 · God speaks through prayer
Day 24 · Thu, Dec 24 · Christmas Eve: The Word became flesh
Day 25 · Sat, Dec 26 · God speaks through circumstances
Day 26 · Sun, Dec 27 · God speaks through the church
Day 27 · Mon, Dec 28 · The crisis of belief
Weekly prayer call · Mon, Dec 28

WRITE THE VERSE FROM MEMORY

DAY 22 · Tue, Dec 22

God speaks through the Bible

READ **2 Timothy 3:16–17; Hebrews 4:12; Psalm 119:105**

The Bible is God's primary way of speaking to us. Blackaby describes moments when the Holy Spirit takes a verse and applies it to your life with fresh clarity. Consider such impressions prayerfully and test them against Scripture in context. Anything we sense from God through other means must agree with His written Word.

REFLECT

- Which Scripture has God made come alive for me during this fast?

- Do I read the Bible for information or to meet God?

JOURNAL

Write the verse that has spoken most to you so far, and what God said to you through it.

PRAY AND LISTEN

Read Psalm 119:105 slowly three times. Ask God to light the next step on your path.

What I sensed God saying:

DAY 23 · Wed, Dec 23

God speaks through prayer

READ **Jeremiah 33:3; Romans 8:26–27; 1 Samuel 3:1–10**

Prayer is a two-way conversation. Young Samuel learned to say, "Speak, for your servant is listening." The Holy Spirit helps us pray according to God's will, and often God speaks as we pray. Pay attention to what He brings to mind while you pray, and test it against Scripture.

REFLECT

- Is my prayer life mostly talking or also listening?

- What has God been saying to me in prayer during this fast?

JOURNAL

Write down everything that came to mind in your listening time today, then check each against Scripture.

PRAY AND LISTEN

Pray Samuel's prayer, then listen for 10 minutes.

What I sensed God saying:

DAY 24 · Thu, Dec 24

Christmas Eve: The Word became flesh

READ **John 1:1–14; Hebrews 1:1–3; Luke 2:1–20**

God has spoken in many ways, but His clearest word is His Son. In Jesus, God revealed Himself completely: His character, His purposes, and His ways. Always remember that God did not wait for us to find Him. He came to us. The manger is God's ultimate invitation into relationship.

REFLECT

- What does the incarnation teach me about how far God goes to reveal Himself?

- How have I seen Jesus more clearly during this fast?

JOURNAL

Write a Christmas Eve thank-you to God for sending Jesus.

PRAY AND LISTEN

Read Luke 2 aloud with your family if you can. Spend a quiet moment in worship before bed.

What I sensed God saying:

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25

Merry Christmas

No fasting and no lesson. Merry Christmas! Celebrate Jesus with gratitude and joy.

Today I am thankful for…

DAY 25 · Sat, Dec 26

God speaks through circumstances

READ **Matthew 2:1–12; Matthew 2:13–15**

God guided the wise men with a star and warned them in a dream. He directed Joseph to flee to Egypt. Circumstances can be God's voice, but we should not interpret them on our own. Blackaby counsels us to go to God for His perspective on what is happening and let Scripture and prayer interpret it.

REFLECT

- What circumstances in my life might God be using to speak to me?

- Have I interpreted a hard circumstance without asking God what He is doing?

JOURNAL

Describe one current circumstance. Write what you think it means, then ask God for His view and write that too.

PRAY AND LISTEN

Restart the fast with a fresh surrender. Ask God, "What are You doing in my circumstances?"

What I sensed God saying:

DAY 26 · Sun, Dec 27

God speaks through the church

READ **Acts 13:1–3; Acts 15:22–28; 1 Corinthians 12:12–27**

In Antioch, the Holy Spirit spoke while the church was worshiping and fasting. In Jerusalem, leaders decided that something "seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us." God often confirms His direction through other believers. We need one another to hear God clearly.

REFLECT

- Whom has God used in our church to speak into my life?

- Do I seek counsel from believers before big decisions?

JOURNAL

Write about a time God spoke to you through another believer.

PRAY AND LISTEN

Pray for our church leaders by name. Ask God to speak clearly to us as a body, just as He did in Antioch.

What I sensed God saying:

DAY 27 · Mon, Dec 28

The crisis of belief

READ **Matthew 14:22–33; Hebrews 11:1, 6**

When God invites us to join Him, the assignment is usually bigger than we can handle. Blackaby calls this the crisis of belief: a turning point where we must decide what we really believe about God. Peter stepped out of the boat. What we *do* next reveals what we believe.

REFLECT

- What is God asking of me that feels impossible?

- What do my actions reveal about what I really believe about God?

JOURNAL

Describe your "boat." What would stepping out look like?

PRAY AND LISTEN

Ask God to increase your faith. Tell Him what you believe about Him, out loud.

What I sensed God saying:

WEEK 4 · MON, DEC 28

Weekly Prayer Call

Call time: Mon, Dec 28 at 7:00 p.m. **Dial-in only:** (508) 924-2034

Did you participate? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Prayer Leader: Pastor Rahshawn Evans

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How has God spoken to you during this fast: through the Bible, prayer, circumstances, or the church?

2. Did Christmas mean something different this year?

3. Is anyone facing a crisis of belief? How can we pray for you?

4. Recite John 14:21 together.

PRAYER REQUESTS

WEEK 5

Alignment through Adjustment

Dec 29–Jan 4

MEMORY VERSE

"Jesus gave them this answer: 'Very truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does.'"

John 5:19 (NIV)

Reality 3: God invites you to join Him in His work.

Reality 6: You must make major adjustments in your life to join God in what He is doing.

Optional reading: Units 9–10

Jesus did nothing on His own initiative. He watched where the Father was working and joined Him. As we cross into 2027, we ask God to show us where He is working and what we must change to join Him.

THIS WEEK

Day 28 · Tue, Dec 29 · Watching the Father
Day 29 · Wed, Dec 30 · Things only God can do
Day 30 · Thu, Dec 31 · New Year's Eve: Burning the plows
Day 31 · Fri, Jan 1 · Going without knowing
Day 32 · Sat, Jan 2 · Who am I?
Day 33 · Sun, Jan 3 · Not my will
Day 34 · Mon, Jan 4 · Joining God as a church
Weekly prayer call · Mon, Jan 4

WRITE THE VERSE FROM MEMORY

DAY 28 · Tue, Dec 29

Watching the Father

READ **John 5:16–20; John 8:28–29**

John 5:19 is at the heart of *Experiencing God*. Jesus watched to see what the Father was doing and joined Him. The Father loves the Son and shows Him what He is doing. In the same way, God loves us and will show us where He is at work if we watch.

REFLECT

- Do I start with my plans and ask God to bless them, or watch for His activity first?

- What has the Father been showing me during this fast?

JOURNAL

List what you have seen God doing around you since December 1.

PRAY AND LISTEN

Pray, "Father, show me what You are doing, and I will join You."

What I sensed God saying:

DAY 29 · Wed, Dec 30

Things only God can do

READ **John 6:44; John 16:7–11; Romans 3:10–11**

No one seeks God on their own, and no one comes to Jesus unless the Father draws them. So, when someone asks spiritual questions or shows hunger for God, that is a sign God is at work. Blackaby encourages us to treat those moments as invitations to join Him.

REFLECT

- Who around me is showing signs of spiritual hunger?

- Have I missed God's invitation because I wasn't paying attention?

JOURNAL

Write the names of people who have asked spiritual questions recently. Next to each, write one way you could join God in their life.

PRAY AND LISTEN

Pray for each person by name. Ask God for an opening to talk with one of them this week.

What I sensed God saying:

DAY 30 · Thu, Dec 31

New Year's Eve: Burning the plows

READ **1 Kings 19:19–21; Isaiah 43:18–19**

When Elijah called Elisha, Elisha slaughtered his oxen and burned the plowing equipment. He made a major adjustment and left no way back. You cannot stay where you are and go with God at the same time. As 2026 ends, ask what you need to leave behind to follow Him into 2027.

REFLECT

- What "plows" do I need to burn as this year ends?

- What new thing might God be doing that I need to perceive?

JOURNAL

Write two lists: "What I leave in 2026" and "What I carry into 2027 with God."

PRAY AND LISTEN

Spend the last moments of the year in prayer. Surrender 2027 to God before it begins.

What I sensed God saying:

DAY 31 · Fri, Jan 1

Going without knowing

READ **Hebrews 11:8–10; Philippians 3:12–14; Proverbs 16:9**

Abraham went out not knowing where he was going. Paul pressed on toward the goal. A new year invites resolutions, but God invites relationship. Instead of setting your own goals and asking God to help, ask Him what He wants this year to hold, and adjust to Him.

REFLECT

- Have I set goals for 2027 without asking God?

- What adjustments might God require in my schedule, finances, relationships, or habits?

JOURNAL

Write a prayer of dedication for 2027. Leave space for what God tells you.

PRAY AND LISTEN

Ask God for one word or verse to guide your year. Write it down.

What I sensed God saying:

DAY 32 · Sat, Jan 2

Who am I?

READ **Exodus 3:1–12; Exodus 4:10–12**

When God called Moses, Moses answered with excuses: Who am I? What will I say? I am not eloquent. God's answer was not about Moses' ability. It was "I will be with you." Our adequacy is never the issue. God's presence is. Moses needed to trust God more than himself.

REFLECT

- What excuses do I give God?

- Where am I focused on my weakness instead of God's presence?

JOURNAL

Write your excuses honestly. Next to each, write God's promise that answers it.

PRAY AND LISTEN

Thank God that He goes with you. Ask Him to replace fear with faith.

What I sensed God saying:

DAY 33 · Sun, Jan 3

Not my will

READ **Luke 22:39–46; John 12:49–50**

In Gethsemane, Jesus made the ultimate adjustment: "Not my will, but yours be done." Joining God sometimes costs us comfort, plans, or pride. Jesus shows that the path of surrender leads through the cross to resurrection. Obedience does not guarantee immediate relief, but we can trust God even when it is costly.

REFLECT

- Where am I praying "my will be done" in disguise?

- What adjustment have I been avoiding?

JOURNAL

Write about the hardest adjustment God is asking of you. What would it cost? What might it bring?

PRAY AND LISTEN

Pray Jesus' prayer about that adjustment. Stay in prayer until you can mean it.

What I sensed God saying:

DAY 34 · Mon, Jan 4

Joining God as a church

READ **Acts 16:6–15**

Paul planned to go one way, but the Spirit closed the door. Then God gave a vision of Macedonia, and Paul adjusted immediately. At the riverside, the Lord had already opened Lydia's heart. God was at work before Paul arrived. Our church, too, must be willing to change plans to join Him.

REFLECT

- Where might God be closing doors for our church, and where is He opening them?

- Where in our city might God already be at work, waiting for us to join Him?

JOURNAL

Write what you sense God is doing in our community. Bring it to tonight's call.

PRAY AND LISTEN

Pray for our church to see and join God's work in our city.

What I sensed God saying:

WEEK 5 · MON, JAN 4

Weekly Prayer Call

Call time: Mon, Jan 4 at 7:00 p.m. **Dial-in only:** (508) 924-2034

Did you participate? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Prayer Leader: Deaconess Rose Pierce Jones

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Where have you seen God at work this week, and how did you join Him?

2. What adjustments is God asking of you as 2027 begins?

3. What do you sense God is doing in our community? What might He be inviting our church to join?

4. Recite John 5:19 together.

PRAYER REQUESTS

WEEK 6

Alignment through Obedience

Jan 5–10

MEMORY VERSE

"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

Hebrews 10:24–25 (NIV)

Reality 7: You come to know God by experience as you obey Him and He accomplishes His work through you.

Optional reading: Units 11–12

This fast was never only personal. God is shaping a people. In our final week, we obey together, encourage one another, and step forward as one body that is an intimate part of God's work.

THIS WEEK

Day 35 · Tue, Jan 5 · Knowing God by obeying Him
Day 36 · Wed, Jan 6 · Many members, one body
Day 37 · Thu, Jan 7 · Spur one another on
Day 38 · Fri, Jan 8 · That they may be one
Day 39 · Sat, Jan 9 · Kingdom people on mission
Day 40 · Sun, Jan 10 · Stones of remembrance
Weekly prayer call · Mon, Jan 11

WRITE THE VERSE FROM MEMORY

DAY 35 · Tue, Jan 5

Knowing God by obeying Him

READ **John 2:1–11; James 1:22–25**

At Cana, the servants filled the jars with water simply because Jesus said to. The master of the feast tasted the wine, but the servants *knew* where it came from. Those who obey get a front-row seat to God's work. Blackaby teaches that we come to know God by experience when we obey and watch Him do what only He can do.

REFLECT

- What has God told me to do during this fast? Have I done it?

- When have I seen God work because I obeyed?

JOURNAL

List every instruction you sense God gave you since December 1. Mark each one: done, in progress, or not yet.

PRAY AND LISTEN

Ask God for courage to complete one "not yet" item this week.

What I sensed God saying:

DAY 36 · Wed, Jan 6

Many members, one body

READ **Romans 12:3–8; Ephesians 4:1–6, 11–16**

God works out His will through the body of Christ. Every member has a gift and a place. Blackaby emphasizes that a church functions best when each member listens to God and to one another, and Christ, as Head, directs the whole. No member is unnecessary, and no member works alone.

REFLECT

- What gifts has God given me for our church?

- Am I using them, or holding back?

JOURNAL

Write how you believe God wants you to serve our church in 2027.

PRAY AND LISTEN

Pray through our church's ministries, one by one. Ask where God wants you involved.

What I sensed God saying:

DAY 37 · Thu, Jan 7

Spur one another on

READ **Hebrews 10:19–25; 1 Thessalonians 5:11–15**

Hebrews tells us to consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Encouragement is not accidental; it takes thought. Gathering together isn't optional for believers. We need each other to keep running the race, especially as the Day approaches.

REFLECT

- Who in our church needs encouragement right now?

- How faithful am I in gathering with God's people?

JOURNAL

Write a note of encouragement to someone in the church. Then send it today by text, card, or call.

PRAY AND LISTEN

Pray for the person you encouraged. Ask God who else needs a word from you.

What I sensed God saying:

DAY 38 · Fri, Jan 8

That they may be one

READ **John 17:20–23; Psalm 133; Philippians 2:1–5**

On the night before the cross, Jesus prayed for us: that we would be one, so the world would believe. Unity is not a church program; it answers Jesus' prayer. It grows as each of us takes on Christ's humble mind and puts others first.

REFLECT

- Is there division, gossip, or unforgiveness I need to lay down?

- How can I protect our church's unity?

JOURNAL

Write Philippians 2:3–4 in your own words as a commitment to our church.

PRAY AND LISTEN

Pray Jesus' prayer in John 17 over our church. Ask God to make us one.

What I sensed God saying:

DAY 39 · Sat, Jan 9

Kingdom people on mission

READ **Matthew 6:33; Matthew 28:18–20; 2 Corinthians 5:17–20**

We are citizens of God's kingdom and ambassadors of Christ. God's work is to reconcile the world to Himself, and He invites His church into that work. A unified church that seeks first His kingdom becomes a clear picture of Jesus to our city.

REFLECT

- Am I seeking God's kingdom first, or adding Him to my own?

- What part of the Great Commission is God inviting me into this year?

JOURNAL

Write what you believe God wants our church to do together in 2027.

PRAY AND LISTEN

Pray for our city, our neighbors, and the unreached. Bring what you hear to Monday's final call.

What I sensed God saying:

DAY 40 · Sun, Jan 10

Stones of remembrance

READ **Joshua 4:1–7; Psalm 103:1–5; Ephesians 3:20–21**

After crossing the Jordan, Israel set up stones so future generations would remember what God had done. Today we finish the fast by remembering. God has been at work in us and among us. Let's mark it, give Him the glory, and walk forward together into what He has prepared.

REFLECT

- What are my "stones of remembrance" from these 40 days?

- How have I changed? How has our church changed?

JOURNAL

Write your testimony of the fast in one page. Be ready to share it.

PRAY AND LISTEN

Give thanks for every way God worked. Pray Ephesians 3:20–21 over our church's future. Worship together today.

What I sensed God saying:

WEEK 6 · MON, JAN 11

Weekly Prayer Call

Call time: Mon, Jan 11 at 7:00 p.m. **Dial-in only:** (508) 924-2034

Did you participate? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Prayer Leader: Apostle M. Queeni Green

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is your biggest "stone of remembrance" from this fast?

2. Where have we seen greater unity during the fast, and where do we still need to grow?

3. What do we sense God inviting our church to join Him in this year?

4. How will we keep encouraging one another after the fast ends?

5. Recite Hebrews 10:24–25 together, then all six memory verses.

PRAYER REQUESTS

After the fast: Monday, January 11 and beyond

The fast ends on January 10, but alignment is a continuing way of life. Enter 2027 committed to knowing God, discerning His will, and obeying Him together.

Ending the fast gently

- Return to regular meals gradually over several days. Start with smaller, lighter portions.
- Keep drinking plenty of water.
- If you have a medical condition, follow your doctor's guidance on returning to normal eating.

Returning to media wisely

Before you reinstall apps or turn the TV back on, ask God what should come back and what should stay gone. Consider keeping a daily screen-free time for scripture and prayer.

Keep going together

- Keep praying with a partner from the fast at least once a week.
- Keep your journal. Reread it on February 10 to see how God has kept working.
- Join or start an *Experiencing God* small group to study the full workbook.
- Keep reciting the six memory verses each week.

Our alignment response: Record what you have discerned, the biblical basis for it, one adjustment you will make, one step of obedience, and an accountability partner. As a church, review shared themes prayerfully before committing to new initiatives.

My Alignment Response

What I have discerned:

Biblical basis:

One adjustment I will make:

One step of obedience:

Accountability partner:

Personal Commitment

I commit, by God's grace, to fast safely, pray, study and listen during these 40 days; to surrender my will, test what I discern against Scripture, make necessary adjustments and walk in obedience and unity as we join God in His work.

Name _____

Fasting partner _____

Date _____