

A photograph of a person reading a book, likely a Bible, in a church setting. The person is wearing a dark, patterned garment. The book is open, and the text is visible. The background is slightly blurred, showing other people in the church. The overall tone is warm and spiritual.

PRAYER & FASTING GUIDE

CROSSROADS CHRISTIAN CHURCH

As we approach this election season, we hold two truths together (1) no human kingdom will last, so placing our absolute hope in any human ruler or government is foolish. (2) As God's people, we engage our world and culture from a place of hope because we know God's kingdom is breaking in and it will bring shalom, true peace, forever. We trust God's sovereignty, and because of that we do remain faith filled.

Christians have the opportunity to lead this election season. By God's grace, we can serve as examples of a better way marked by charity, integrity, compassion, and hope for many people who are disconcerted, disunited, and disillusioned with American politics. And in all of it, we take the opportunity share the reason for the hope that lies within us—the Savior whose reign we await and help usher in.

WHAT TO DO WITH THIS GUIDE?

- ~ **CONSIDER FASTING DAILY** (ie food, technology, TV).
See the Fasting Guide at the end of this document.
- ~ **MAKE TIME EACH DAY TO PRAY USING THE PROMPTS PROVIDED.**

PRAYER GUIDE

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27

Pray for your small group, our congregation, and the church in America at large.

Pray our Crossroads family will be salt and light in the tristate area. (Matthew 5:13-16)

Pray we will be diligent to pursue the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. Pray we will repent and seek reconciliation if any of our discussions have been marked by divisiveness or lack of love. (John 17:20-23; Ephesians 4:1-3)

MONDAY, OCTOBER 28

Pray for your small group, our congregation, and the church in America at large. Pray for assurance and conviction for other believers in the tristate area.

Pray for the members of your small group by name. Pray that you will be a blessing to them, and that you will be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to anger. Pray you will engage in hard discussions in a way that seeks to understand and honor Christ. (James 1:19; Ephesians 4:29-32; Proverbs 18:2)

Pray our conduct will be honorable before the watching world and that we will boldly proclaim the hope we have in Jesus Christ. (1 Peter 2:9-12; Matthew 28:18-20; Colossians 4:5-6)

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 29

Pray for clarity and boldness for leaders as they seek to lead God's people.

Pray that the Elders at Crossroads will be diligent to shepherd the flock of God in a way that leads to blessing and righteousness. (1 Peter 5:1-5)

Pray that other church leaders throughout our country who are faithfully shepherding and equipping the saints for the work of ministry will not grow weary of doing good. (Galatians 6:9-10; 1 Corinthians 15:58)

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30

Pray for assurance and conviction for other believers in the tristate area. Pray for clarity and boldness for leaders as they seek to lead God's people.

Pray the Lord will strengthen the resolve of church leaders everywhere and that they will take seriously the call to courageously shepherd the flock of God. (Acts 20:28-31; 1 Peter 5:1-5; Proverbs 20:10)

Pray that every church in America will be a prevailing church and reject apathy, people-pleasing, and pandering to the patterns of this world. (Revelation 3:1-3)

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31

Pray for elected officials, government, and those in authority, both locally and nationally.

Pray those in authority over us will come to know and trust in Jesus Christ and that their lives will be transformed by the gospel. Pray by name for those who represent you at the national, state, and local levels. (1 Timothy 2:1-4; Proverbs 29:2)

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1

Pray for elected officials, government, and those in authority, both locally and nationally. Pray for the elections in your district.

Pray our government will seek to protect the citizens and carry out justice in an impartial manner. (Romans 13:1-5)

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2

Pray for the welfare of our city. Pray the Lord will show you what it looks like to vote faithfully and lovingly.

Pray for our local community in the tristate, your neighbors, and those you encounter on a day-to-day basis. Pray for the lost and the hurting in our communities. Pray for opportunities to serve and care for those you come across. (Jeremiah 29:7)

Pray for wisdom, discernment, and peace as you consider your vote.

Pray that God will help you maintain your integrity and obey your conscience whether you're in the voting booth or on social media.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3

Pray for elected officials, government, and those in authority, both locally and nationally.

Pray for leaders and voters to enact laws that protect all vulnerable and marginalized people (including the unborn, immigrants, widows, refugees, and orphans).
(Proverbs 21:1; Daniel 2:20-22)

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 4

Pray for our country

Pray that our country will reject the divisive brand of politics we've seen over the last several years, and be part of the healing.

Pray that God will help voters take their responsibility seriously and vote for what's good, right, and true for our cities, state, and nation.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5

Pray for our country

Pray that God will protect our poll workers around the country.

Pray that God will stir up gratitude in us for the voting rights we enjoy.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6

Pray for yourself.

We are not personally immune to the division and despair endemic to American politics right now. As such, we should pray that God will help us faithfully navigate our way through this tumultuous season of American life.

Pray that God will empower you to walk in step with his Spirit even when your convictions are criticized.

Pray that God will empower you to take the initiative on cultivating relationships with others who might not share the same values, convictions, or political perspective.

Pray that God will empower you to treat others in a Christlike manner, with dignity, respect, and charity.

FASTING GUIDE

Adapted from *The Practice of Fasting*
a Crossroads sermon message in August 2024.

STARTING POINT - FOOD

SKIP ONE-TWO MEALS. If you are ready, move to 2-3 days or one - two meals from now until the election.

JOIN OUR CONGREGATION in focusing prayers on the prompts provided, and pray as you feel led.

As you engage in your fast and experience hunger pains, allow those to focus your prayers and attention to ask God to have mercy on our nation and to direct our path. Be sensitive to what God is doing in you. Confess your desire to find greater levels of trust and hope in Him!

STARTING POINT - DIGITAL FAST

FOR ONE WEEK

USE your phone/computer for calling, texting, and necessary work activities only.

DELETE OR LIMIT social media, games, and news apps.

COMMIT to not watching any (or less) TV.

JOIN OUR CONGREGATION in focusing prayers on the prompts provided, and pray as you feel led.

As you engage in this and experience desire to grab your phone or turn on the TV, allow that to focus your prayers and attention to ask God to have mercy on our nation and to direct our path. Confess your desire to find greater levels of trust and hope in Him!