

June 2020: A season of prayer & fasting

Seeking God's Heart for Racial Reconciliation

Gospel COMMUNITY
RIVERMONT

DAY 1

Monday: Fasting & Praying

JUSTICE

FAST OF ABSTENTION

The spiritual discipline of fasting is **abstaining** from something meaningful, like food, in order to seek the heart of God.

On each Monday—June 8, 15, & 22—we are corporately fasting by abstention **in order seek the heart of God for racial reconciliation.**

SOME FASTING IDEAS:

- **Social media/Entertainment**
- **Food:** A meal or a type of food.
- **Comforts:** Examples—going a day without air conditioning, waking up early to pray, etc.

ISAIAH 58 FAST

FAST OF ENGAGEMENT

In Isaiah 58, God confronts his people in the midst of their fasting and calls them to a fast of engagement: to do justice and love their neighbors.

During our season of fasting, we invite you to engage in actions associated with at least one of these three categories.

CATEGORIES OF ENGAGEMENT:

- **Education:** Learn about the history of racial injustice (resources forthcoming).
- **Relationship:** Connect with a person from a different ethnicity.
- **Service:** Prayerfully extend a hand of service to a friend or neighbor of a different ethnicity.



pause. breathe.

take two minutes of silence and stillness before the Lord. take deep breaths. ask the Lord to speak to your heart today.



Monday Scripture

**MICAH 6:6-8;
ISAIAH 58:1-12**

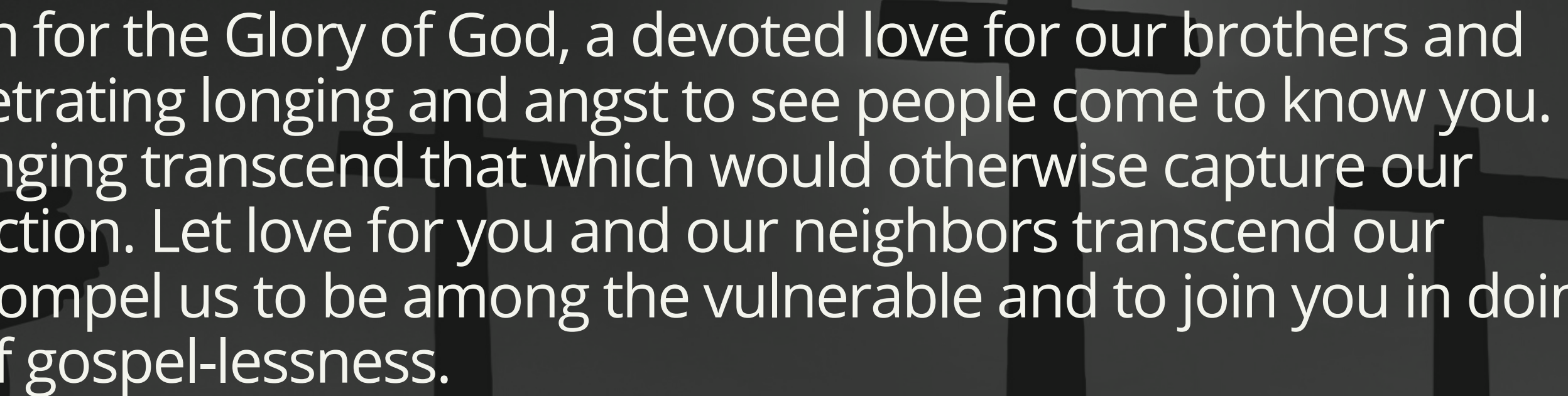
"Is this not the fast I choose: to loose the chains of injustice...to break every chain?"



MONDAY PRAYER: DO JUSTICE

Lord Jesus,

Stir in us a concern for the Glory of God, a devoted love for our brothers and sisters, and a penetrating longing and angst to see people come to know you. Let that desire and longing transcend that which would otherwise capture our attention and affection. Let love for you and our neighbors transcend our preferences and compel us to be among the vulnerable and to join you in doing justice in spaces of gospel-lessness.



GLORIOUSLY COMPELLED BY LOVE TO DO JUSTICE



DAY 2

Tuesday

MERCY



pause. breathe.

take two minutes of silence and stillness before the Lord. take deep breaths. ask the Lord to speak to your heart today.



Tuesday Scripture

**MICAH 6:8;
LUKE 10:25-37**

"And seeking to justify himself, the expert in the Law asked Jesus, 'And who is my neighbor?'"



TUESDAY PRAYER: LOVE MERCY

Merciful God,

Give us eyes to see our own deep human need for mercy; there is a distress in the soul of humanity that needs healing. Then quickly turn our attention to Christ, who sees us in our misery and need and actively relieves our distress on the cross. Oh, sweet relief! And Lord Jesus, teach us how to be merciful to others as you have been to us—to relieve the distress of those in misery and in need, even when just like us they may not deserve it. This is the way of Jesus: Blessed are the merciful. Amen.

RELIEVING THE DISTRESS OF THOSE IN MISERY AND IN NEED



DAY 3

Wednesday

WISDOM



pause. breathe.

take two minutes of silence and stillness before the Lord. take deep breaths. ask the Lord to speak to your heart today.



Wednesday Scripture

PROVERBS 2:1-15

"Listen closely to wisdom, cry out to the Lord for understanding like hidden treasure. Then you will understand justice and righteousness."



WEDNESDAY PRAYER: SEEK WISDOM

Almighty God,

We long to know you, and from you to learn wisdom and understanding. Teach us to incline our ear to you. Let our hearts learn to seek you out like hidden treasure. May the knowledge of who you are and who we are in light of you inform the way we understand the world around us. Lord, give us insight in order to raise our voice on behalf of the oppressed. Give us eyes to see and ears to hear, in order that we may walk in righteousness and practice justice in your kingdom here on earth.
Amen.

LISTENING CLOSELY TO WISDOM



DAY 4

Thursday

COMPASSION: TO CO-SUFFER



pause. breathe.

take two minutes of silence and stillness before the Lord. take deep breaths. ask the Lord to speak to your heart today.



Thursday Scripture

MATTHEW 25:31-46
PSALM 145

"Whatever you did for the least one
of these brothers and sisters of mine,
you did for me."



THURSDAY PRAYER: HAVE COMPASSION

Compassionate God,

At the heart of your gospel is Jesus reconciling his enemies to himself by becoming flesh and dwelling among us—bearing our burdens, suffering with and for us to heal us. Christ, Son of God, you made your home among your enemies and there you served them, ate with them, healed them, prayed with them, taught them, and loved them with everything you had. Then, they murdered you and in your darkest hour, many of your closest friends abandoned you. He did all of this in love, to make a family out of your enemies. This is the gospel. This is cosmic, divine, unmistakable, and incredibly risky compassion. And for the Christian, there is simply no other way of life. Oh God, that we would radically embrace a lifestyle of compassion among our neighbors.
Amen.

CO-SUFFERING WITH OUR NEIGHBORS

