
BREAKING CAMP

Day of Prayer and Fasting

¹ Now in the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen (who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch) and Saul. ² While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." ³ So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off.

Acts 13:1-3 (NIV)

During a time of worship, with fasting and prayer, the Holy Spirit spoke to the church at Antioch and said, it's time to move out in a new direction! He revealed leaders he was calling into new roles, and he revealed a new work he was calling the church to.

At Crossroads, we are sensing God saying, it's time to move! We are desperate for God to show us His direction for a potential new service and for future church plants. And we're begging Him to raise up the people he is calling into new roles. Please join us in praying (and even fasting if you can – see the note about fasting below) for God's direction and will to be done for his church so that we can help more and more people connect with God and others at the crossroads of life!

We will be praying together and fasting on Thursday May 25th. You're invited to join us from wherever you will be. And if that day doesn't work for you, feel free to join us in prayer and fasting on the day that best fits your schedule.

Prayer Requests

Church Planting

- Praise God for our next campus pastor couple, approved through the church planting assessment!
- Pray for Charles and Ivona Mersberger, for God to prepare them over the next few years for this future step. Ask God to encourage them and protect them from the attacks and discouragements of the enemy. And pray for Charles as he steps into leading the Rush youth ministry as training for leading a future church plant.
- Pray for God's clear direction on where he is calling us to plant next. Pray for connections in the community he is inviting us to and the development of core team members from that city.

- Ask God to raise up more church planters to lead new campuses and churches. Pray for people to feel God's calling and respond. Pray for humble, teachable, developing leaders who love Jesus and are passionate about seeing more people reached for Jesus.
- Pray for Church planting residents and pastoral interns. Pray for people to hear God's voice and calling clearly and respond to this exploratory step. Pray for more people to say yes to serving Jesus in vocational ministry.
- Ask God to prepare a strong core team to launch a new campus in a few years. Pray for future leaders to begin taking steps now to develop in their leadership of ministries and teams. Pray that they would grow in their personal devotion and connection to Jesus and their heart for outreach.

Third Service

- Pray that God speaks clearly through the survey data about if we should offer a new third service.
- Pray that God speaks clearly about which service option we should experiment with.
- Ask God to raise up the serving teams to launch a new service. Pray that many new people and people who haven't taken a step to get involved would join a serving team to help us launch a new service.
- Pray for God to multiply the ministry leaders needed to lead the teams necessary for a new service.
- Ask God to help us reach new people through this new service time.

Open Positions

- Praise God for the opportunity to add new people to our staff team! Ask God to get the word out about these new positions to the right people who need to apply.
- Pray for God to raise up the person He's calling to be our next Associate Pastor. Pray for a humble, teachable servant leader who loves Jesus and will serve His church well. Pray against Satan's discouragements. Pray this person feels compelled to apply and has a clear sense of God's calling on their life.
- Pray for God to raise up the next Director of Children's Ministry at Crossroads. The next generation matters so much to God. Pray for a gifted leader who loves kids and investing in families. Pray for someone who will continue to encourage and build up our Crossroads Kids serving teams.
- Pray for our next Connections Director. Ask God to raise up a person gifted in leadership and administration who has a passion to see people take next steps in their walk with God.
- Ask God for the right person to step into our new Community Outreach Director role. Pray for the person who will help us go to the next level in our impact in our city. Ask God for someone with an evangelistic heart who will mobilize the church for greater impact.
- Pray for our next Director of Music Ministry at our Manitowoc campus. Pray for someone with a passion to lead people into God's presence.
- Pray for our next social media coordinator, someone who is passionate about using the power of social media to impact people for Jesus.

Why Fast?

There's nothing magical about fasting. It doesn't mean God will listen to our prayers more than normal because we've somehow earned that through our devotion. Fasting is not something for us to brag about or a sign that we're more spiritually advanced than others.

Fasting has been a regular practice of Christians for centuries and is taught in the Bible. The purpose of fasting is to better prepare our hearts as we come before God. Fasting increases our feelings of weakness and dependence on God. It increases our desperation to see God move. It helps us pray more intensely and diligently. In summary, fasting doesn't change God's heart, it changes ours.

How to Fast

A normal fast involves abstaining from eating for a single meal, for a day, or for multiple days. There are many variations of this and partial fasts as well. If you've never fasted before, you could start with skipping a single meal and using that time to pray instead. You would then avoid snacking throughout the day as well so that you feel that hunger which helps increase our dependence on God.

If you've done some fasting before, we encourage you to join us for a full day fast where we refrain from eating and use that time to pray multiple times throughout the day. Clear liquids are still recommended during a daily fast.

Note: Fast only if it is medically safe for you to do so. Certain medical conditions such as diabetes can make a normal fast inadvisable. Consult your doctor before attempting a normal fast. You could do a partial fast instead or focus on praying without fasting.