

“Don’t pray when you feel like it. Have an appointment with the Lord and keep it. A man is powerful on his knees.”

~ Corrie Ten Boom

“Prayer is reaching out after the unseen; fasting is letting go of all that is seen and temporal. Fasting helps express, deepen, confirm the resolution that we are ready to sacrifice anything, even ourselves to attain what we seek for the kingdom of God.”

~ Andrew Murray

“Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.”

~ 1 Peter 1:13

“As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, 5 you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.”

~ 1 Peter 2:4-5

This is a significant year. It is our TENTH week of prayer and fasting. This is the eighth book to be used as a guide through this very important week in the life of our church. If you have any of the booklets from years past, skim through them and allow the Spirit of God to overwhelm you with how he has grown and developed Second Mile. His abundant grace to us saturates our body.

It is God’s grace to us that he led us to begin and maintain this very important practice in our church. A common phrase you will hear at Second Mile is “we are doing things a bit different than usual.” The booklet you are holding in your hands fits perfectly into that sentiment.

Use this guide along with your Bible and a journal. It is important for you to write out insights Jesus gives you into your own life, into our church, and into our city. In fact, that is how this book is designed. Each day think and pray through three areas in the given topic: **Personal, Second Mile, Tucson**. Write out any thoughts, insights, and prayers to keep you focused as you pray. This will also be a helpful map as you walk forward.

This is not a five-minute-a-day devotional book. It is meant to stretch you, guide you, even exhaust you as you labor in prayer. Ask the Spirit of God to “take me deeper than my feet could ever wander, and my faith will be made stronger, in the presence of my Savior.” We sing such profound words, but often forget to consider what the cost may be. Prayerfully, this week will cost some of us physical hunger, solitude and silence, sacrificial time set aside to truly seek God, courage in opening our mouths to pray out loud with community, and deeper spiritual communion than we have experienced in quite some time. We trust and believe if we call to God, he will, in fact, teach us great and unsearchable things we do not know (Jeremiah 33:3).

**“Sow for yourselves righteousness;
reap steadfast love;
break up your fallow ground,
for it is the time to seek the Lord,
that he may come and rain righteousness upon you.”**

~ Hosea 10:12

Monday :: Reflection

“The man who mobilizes the Christian church to pray will make the greatest contribution to world evangelization in history.”

~ Andrew Murray

“Prayer is not monologue, but dialogue. God’s voice in response to mine is its most essential part.”

~ Andrew Murray

If you have participated in the week of prayer and fasting in the past, do not let your thoughts go to what has been the “normal” Monday of readying, repenting, and reflecting on the very personal aspects of life. Some of that may be necessary, so trust the Spirit as he leads you to the places of your heart in prayer as this week begins.

However, this year spend today **reflecting** on the **work** of God in and around you, the ways he has led you through seasons of difficulty, seasons of learning, seasons of plenty and harvest.

“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.”

~ John 14:26

Personal

Read through and consider **Matthew 13:3-8, 18-23** as you spend time in personal reflection.

Ask God to show you life “mile markers” of significant spiritual events that have shaped your foundation in him. List them, pray through them, reflect and remember his ways in your life.

What patterns do you see of the seed, the Word of God, landing on your heart?

- on the path, no desire to understand, taken by the birds, no place to sink in?
- on shallow, rocky soil, no depth, no strength to endure?
- in thorns, distracted by the world, no purity in devotion, too busy?
- on good soil, honest, good heart, embracing the gospel, perseverant?

Write down specific scripture God used in your life in the past year. Do you see a theme? What are the specific lessons you can see God speaking to you through his word?

Ask Him for renewed or fresh vision through this week of prayer as you seek him personally with any revelations he gives through this day of reflection. Keep these things in mind as you pray each moment for his leading in your life.

Second Mile

“The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers. 8 Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. 9 Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. 10 As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: 11 whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.”

~ 1 Peter 4:7-11

In what ways have you been an active participant in the body of Second Mile? In the areas in which you enjoy community and/or serve, can you see patterns of God's leading? Ask the Holy Spirit to give you insight as you ponder His work in our midst. Write down your thoughts and insights.

Whether you've been a part of Second Mile for nine years or nine minutes, what are ways you have seen God grow our church in depth and breadth?

Do you know the vision statement of Second Mile? Write it down and reflect on whether or not it is being fulfilled. If you aren't sure, based on what you see happening within the church, what would be your best guess concerning the vision of Second Mile?

Think through the core values of our church: Prayer, Cultivate, Amplify, Truth, and Community. Reflect on how you see these values being lived out in our community. What are our strengths? What are our weaknesses? Ask God to lead us, deepen us, and challenge us in these areas.

If you are part of a community group, how is your group living out the core values? What are you doing to contribute to the growth of depth and breadth in your group? How have you seen your group grow? In what ways does your group need to grow and change? Pray for God's leading in praying for your community group this week.

**“Come, bless the Lord, all you servants of the Lord,
who stand by night in the house of the Lord!**

**2 Lift up your hands to the holy place
and bless the Lord!**

**3 May the Lord bless you from Zion,
he who made heaven and earth!”**

~ Psalm 134

Tucson

“Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning.”

~ Luke 12:35

**“Therefore stay awake—for you do not know when the
master of the house will come, in the evening, or at
midnight, or when the rooster crows, or in the morning— 36
lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. 37 And what I
say to you I say to all: Stay awake.”**

~ Mark 13:35-37

Consider our city. Why do people live here? What do you love about Tucson? What do you dislike about Tucson?

Where do you live? Why? Where do you work or go to school? Why?

Reflect on the ways you have seen God move in Tucson. Write them down. Do you see ways you have been involved in his activity? Be specific. Thank him for his love for our city. Ask him to increase your love for Tucsonans. Spend time rejoicing or repenting about your heart towards our city.

Ask God to give you insight into your place sharing his gospel as you reflect on what he is doing in Tucson.

Tuesday :: Mission (strategy)

"Beware in your prayers, above everything else, of limiting God, not only by unbelief, but by fancying that you know what He can do. Expect unexpected things 'above all that we ask or think.'"

~ Andrew Murray

"If sinners be damned, at least let them leap to Hell over our bodies. If they will perish, let them perish with our arms about their knees. Let no one go there unwarned and unprayed for."

~ Charles H. Spurgeon

As followers of Jesus we have been given a mission. This mission is displayed in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. This mission continues through the church. God has pressed upon the collective hearts of our community to know him and join him on this glorious mission.

"And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'"

~ Matthew 28:18-20

"And he said to them, 'Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation. 16 Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.'"

~ Mark 16:15-16

"Then he said to them, 'These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.' 45 Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, 46 and said to them, 'Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, 47 and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. 48 You are witnesses of these things. 49 And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.'"

~ Luke 24:44-49

"Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.' 22 And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. 23 If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld.'"

~ John 20:21-23

"He said to them, 'It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.'"

~ Acts 1:7-8

Mission - In order to reach the next generation, we are a community of believers who radically amplifies Jesus by engaging and loving the people in our lives, the city where we live, and the world Jesus came to redeem with the reality of the gospel.

After reading the 5 mission (commission) statements given to us by Jesus as well as reading Second Mile's mission statement...

- What did the Holy Spirit reveal to you?
- Pray that God would give you a depth of understanding concerning his mission for your life.
- Ask Jesus to give you practical insight as to how you can engage others with the gospel.
- How is God asking you to be uniquely part of God fulfilling his mission through Second Mile? Pray that the Holy Spirit would press upon you an area that you could serve.

Guiding Principles

As a church, in our everyday living, we desire to be guided by principles that are much bigger than any individual.

Word of God - God's word must penetrate every aspect of our lives. God has richly blessed his children by giving us His holy scripture. In order to make sense of our extremely chaotic world, we must read, listen, study, meditate, and memorize Scripture. God has revealed his character, mission, and victory. His word is essential to keep focused and to experience change as a result of God's character, mission, and victory.

“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,”

~ 2 Timothy 3:16

Pray for...

- God to give you a zealotry for his word.
- your love for scripture would grow exponentially this next year.
- strength, that you would moment by moment connect with the Holy Spirit in the active discipline of obeying God's word.

Jesus Centered - Our choice is to follow the example of Christ. We must always ask, “God, what would you have us do next?”
“So Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise.”

~ John 5:19

“I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.”

~ John 15:5

Pray for...

- the removal of anything that is preventing you from keeping Jesus as the central (primary) focus of your life.
- an increase of understanding and love toward Jesus, your Savior.
- a pure satisfaction that can only be found in an active relationship with Jesus.

Committed to Character - The Holy Spirit has given us the ability to be whole people. Our pursuit of integrity will move us to understand, develop, and refine personal strengths and spiritual giftedness.

Pray for...

- God to give you a clear understanding of your spiritual gifts.
- the Holy Spirit to refine your character. Ask him to reveal to you the areas in your soul that are divided.
- vulnerability - ask Jesus to reveal to you those with whom you need to build trust and listen to their insight into your life.

Joyful Hospitality - Hospitality is defined as the friendly reception and treatment of guests or strangers. It is treating guests and strangers in a warm, friendly, and generous way.

Because we are chosen, loved, and set apart as holy, it is our joy that leads us toward hospitality. We have a responsibility. We have been given a task. We have been entrusted with a truth that cannot be held tightly for ourselves. Our homes and our families must be involved in the lives of others for the glory of Jesus.

“But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.”

~ 1 Peter 2:9

Pray for...

- the Holy Spirit to reveal to you those with whom you need to initiate an on-going relationship.
- Jesus to give you the ability to develop margin in your life. Pray that he would give you the perseverance to have others in your home for good food, conversation, and refinement.
- the relationships outside of church you are nurturing. Ask God to give you boldness and sensitivity in all of these relationships. Pray for those individuals that come to mind. How will you become a larger part of their lives?

Kingdom Focused - If our relationships are genuine, then over time interest and awareness of “spiritual things” will be absolute. Our willingness to cross social, political, and religious barriers will also foster unique and necessary relational opportunities. The Kingdom, not opinion, takes precedence.

“The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”

~ Mark 1:15

Pray for...

- God’s continual revelation of himself and his kingdom to specific people with whom you interact.
- the Holy Spirit to use you for his purposes of renewal.
- your life to be a display of God’s glory

Take time to pray through the following questions.

In what areas do you need to seek forgiveness?

In what areas do you need to pause and thank God for the tremendous opportunities that he has given you to share your faith?

Do you trust enough in the authority of Jesus that the message he has sent you to share is worth listening to?

Has this message so captured your heart that you are willing to actively engage culture (go)?

When embedded in culture do you passively rub off on people or do you speak the message of repentance?

As a result of your influence, are you experiencing the momentum and growth of the church?

If we as a church allow these guiding principles to saturate every part of our being, then **1 Peter 4:7-10** will be a beautiful description of the body of Christ serving each other and serving those who need to hear the incredible story of redemption.

Wednesday :: Influence (leadership)

*"I would rather teach one man to pray than ten men to preach."
~ Charles Spurgeon*

"Men may spurn our appeals, reject our message, oppose our arguments, despise our persons, but they are helpless against our prayers."

~ Sidlow Baxter

“Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. 12 Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.”

~ 1 Peter 2:11-12

In Matthew 5:13-16 Jesus tells a parable concerning salt, light, and refuge.

Salt of the earth - We must permeate society for good and act as a moral antiseptic.

Light of the world - The purpose of light is illumination.

City on a hill - Does your presence in other's lives create a place of refuge?

The end goal for any of these behaviors is not simply the production of goodness and safety. The end goal is the revelation of Jesus. God desires every aspect of our lives to influence others for his glory.

Personal

Who are the people that have been the most influential in your life (family, friends, mentors, community group leaders, church leaders, etc.)? Write them down. Pray for them.

- Ask Jesus to renew them. Pray that God would uniquely reveal himself to them today.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to fill their hearts and minds with the wisdom that comes from Scripture. Pray that they would keep their gaze fixed on heavenly things (Colossians 3:2).
- Think about each name you wrote down. What is something you can specifically pray for that person? Perhaps write them a note and encourage them by thanking them for the influence they have had on your life.

Second Mile & Tucson **

Take time and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you those he has asked you to influence (both inside and outside the church). Use a journal and write down their names. Why has God put these people in your life? It is not an accident.

- Pray that God would seal your character with holiness.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to expand your capacity in generosity, kindness, and love.
- Ask Jesus to give you the ability to develop a strength of relationship with others who do not share your worldview.
- Pray that you would be given multiple opportunities to share the joy of the gospel with those you wrote down.
- Pray that this year you would see someone on your list accept Jesus and get involved with the community of Second Mile.

Pray that you would be overwhelmed by Jesus' presence in your life. He has moved numerous people and circumstances so that you could learn of his love and accept his forgiveness into your life. God's desire is for you to be part of this orchestrated miracle. Ask the Holy Spirit to use you to impact others! Pray for boldness, persistence, and tenderness.

**Notice the similarities of these requests with the time you spent in prayer yesterday concerning Joyful Hospitality. This is intentional. Our influence is paramount to our understanding of Jesus. Only when we serve and get involved with others do we truly grasp the depth of God's character.

God has given us a tremendous relationship with Emmanuel. We are excited to grow in depth of relationship with their leadership. We are also full of questions as to what God is up to in allowing the two churches to continue to partner in order to influence the city of Tucson with the gospel of Jesus.

While on the topic of influence, please take the time to pray for Emmanuel.

- Pray that Emmanuel will be unified in mission and resolve.
- Pray that heart transformation will be at the forefront of every relationship.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to develop within this local community a deep love for people.
- Pray that change would foster/develop long-lasting spiritual growth.

Please pray for Sean (pastor of Emmanuel) and his family.

- Pray for Nell's (Sean's wife) continued recovery from breast cancer.
- Ask Jesus to expand Nell's influence and to give her the ability to offer His hope to hurting women through Arizona Baptist Children Services.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to bring strength and courage to their two boys (Adam & Josh) as they grow in their understanding of Jesus and their ability to influence their peers with the gospel.
- Ask God to strengthen Sean's commitment to holiness and an obedience to His will.
- Pray for humility and that vision and direction would be led by Jesus.
- Pray for perspective; pray that Sean's primary focus would be his relationship with Jesus. Pray that he would lead and shepherd his family, not letting ministry get in the way of this role.

Thursday :: Serving

"Prayer honors God, acknowledges His being, exalts His power, adores His providence, secures His aid."

~ E. M. Bounds

"Prayer does not fit us for the greater work; prayer is the greater work."

~ Oswald Chambers

"And Jesus called them to him and said to them, 'You know that those who are considered rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. 43 But it shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, 44 and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. 45 For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.'"

~ Mark 10:42-45

Make a list of the qualities of a servant. List people in your life who exemplify these qualities.

- Pray for them as they continue to serve in various ways.
- Ask God to strengthen their resolve to love and serve.
- Pray that God will enable them to serve as an act of worship rather than for the praise of men.

How do you use your gifts, talents, and strengths to become a servant to those in your life?

Ponder the phrase Jesus spoke in Mark 10:43. "But it shall not be so among you." If the world lords authority over people, seeks to have power, and looks out for personal interest, how does "it shall not be so among you" fit into the way you currently live?

Make a list of your gifts, talents, strengths. Do you use these qualities in your life to exercise authority over people, manipulate people, avoid people, or use people? Allow God to search your heart and reveal any wrongful motives. If you can answer yes in any way, spend time in repentance.

- Ask the Spirit of God to give you his motives in serving and ministering to people.
- Ask God to give you specific insight into ways you can serve people around you.
- Write it down and make a plan of action for accountability. Share this with your community group or a close friend.

Consider your roommate, your family, your co-workers, your classmates. In what ways can you serve them that would spark conversations about Jesus in your life? Are you willing to talk about Jesus with them?

- Ask him to burden your heart to serve and love the people in your sphere of influence.
- Pray for insight from the Spirit on ways you can share the love of Christ with people around you with your words and with your actions.

Second Mile

"For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, 5 so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. 6 Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; 7 if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; 8 the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness." ~Romans 12:4-8

Think through the various ways you see people serve within Second Mile. Spend time thanking God for those people. Ask God to encourage them in their service. Consider personally encouraging them through a brief comment of thanks or even a sincere note of thanks. The heart of a servant does not expect such accolades, but as a body of Christ it is good for us to love one another through encouragement.

Read through the list your personal gifts, talents, and strengths again. How are you using these traits to be a vital part of the body of Christ? Do you see yourself as a vital part? Why or why not? The truth is you *are* a vital part. Ask God for his truth in how he sees you as his child, as a member of his bride, and as contributor to Second Mile.

Are you part of a community group? Why or why not? In what ways can you serve your group?

How can you use your gifts to serve in order to build up God's church? Do you serve in any of these areas?

- Moxie, Iron & Iron, Second Mile Kids
- Administrative tasks such as website updating or finance management
- The arts, film, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter marketing
- Seeds or Cord of Hope, meeting the needs of those in distress
- The worship team, gathering set up/tear down, hospitality
- Becoming an apprentice to lead a community group
- Organizing, cleaning, painting, updating Emmanuel's facility
- Other needs in Second Mile that you see because God revealed the need to you

Pray through Romans 12:9-13. Ask him to make this true of Second Mile, starting with you.

“Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. 10 Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. 11 Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. 12 Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. 13 Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.” ~Romans 12:9-13

Tucson

“And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles.” ~Matthew 5:41

Everything you have prayed through in the area of serving thus far can and should be applied to our city. For some, this may feel burdensome. How can we manage to live on mission, to influence, to cultivate, to serve, and also to survive? We survive because we are a body, dependent on the Holy Spirit and dependent on one another.

We spur each other on. We lift each other up. We carry each other when necessary. And, we do this for our city, as well.

Spend time praying again through your unique spheres of influence in your workplace, in your school, and in your social settings. Ask God to give you his heart to love and genuinely serve the people of our city.

This is a very small list of ways you can tangibly serve our city. Pray for those already involved and ask God if you should consider serving in any of these areas. Please do not allow this list to limit what God may be asking you to do, but let it guide you into very real possibilities.

Seeds

- Ask God for discernment in this coming year on how Seeds should be specifically serving Tucson.
- Pray that the leadership will listen to the Spirit as he leads them in their ability to say yes, no, and not yet to a variety of opportunities.
- Pray for perseverance in the very long process of building a non-profit organization.
- Ask God to raise up people inside and outside of Second Mile to serve Tucson through Seeds.

Cord of Hope

- Pray for a servant's heart for those involved with Cord of Hope.
- Ask God for unique opportunities to serve the women working in the clubs.
- Pray for the women who have received gifts through past outreaches. Ask God to draw them to himself.

Arizona Baptist Children's Services

- Several people within Second Mile work with ABCS in a variety of ways. Ask God to give us unique ways to partner with them to serve Tucson.
- Pray for God to raise up people within our body to serve children and families in distress.
- Ask God to strengthen the resolve of ABCS to serve Jesus as they serve families as our state goes through many changes in policies and organizations, specifically with CPS.

Hands of Hope

- This non-profit helps people who are dealing with an unplanned pregnancy. Again, some of our own work for or have volunteered with Hands of Hope. Ask God to give them courage and strength to serve woman in this area.
- Pray wisdom, insight, love, and a servant's heart for those who counsel women as they consider options concerning their pregnancy.

Friday :: Cultivation (mentoring, accountability, communal availability)

"Our prayer must not be self-centered. It must arise not only because we feel our own need as a burden we must lay upon God, but also because we are so bound up in love for our fellow men that we feel their need as acutely as our own. To make intercession for men is the most powerful and practical way in which we can express our love for them."

~ John Calvin

"The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers. 8 Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. 9 Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. 10 As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: 11 whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen."

~ 1 Peter 4:7-11

Consider this definition of **disciple** - a strong, persevering servant of the gospel who will collaborate with Jesus and their community in the work of ministry.

Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you how well you are collaborating.

The Resume of a Disciple

Mark 12:28-33, Love is displayed in a disciple in 5 ways: heart (character), soul (conviction), mind (comprehension), strength (competence/skill), and neighbor (compassion).

- Pause and pray for God to develop and stretch you in each of these five areas.
- Ask God how you can include another person in this process of growth.

How do you stay accountable to God's activity in your life?

- Pray for depth in relationships.
- Regardless of personality, pray that you would be vulnerable with others.
- Pray that God would give you numerous opportunities to encourage your friends and the church with your gifts and strengths.

Remember:

- You can't give what you don't have.
- The gap between what we say and what we practice is where we lose people.

Consider Second Mile's core value **cultivate** - We believe that God wants us not only to know each other, but to pour our lives into the people around us. We make time to sharpen each other, to stir each other up to do good things, to process ideas and turn them into actions. We learn God's word and use it to humbly teach, respectfully rebuke and correct, and help each other learn what it is to live in a way that pleases God.

- Pray that God would expand your understanding and experience of love through active participation in **cultivation**.
- Pray through the following questions and ask Jesus to give you insight into finding the answers to each one.

What is God teaching you in the area of discipleship? What is the condition of your spiritual health? Who are you depending on to help you find spiritual health? Are you willing to simplify and take a radical approach towards investment?

“You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, 2 and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. 3 Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. 4 No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him. 5 An athlete is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules. 6 It is the hard-working farmer who ought to have the first share of the crops. 7 Think over what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything.”

~ 2 Timothy 2:1-7

Saturday :: Resolve (action plan)

“Jesus taught that perseverance is the essential element of prayer. Men must be in earnest when they kneel at God's footstool. Too often we get faint-hearted and quit praying at the point where we ought to begin. We let go at the very point where we should hold on strongest. Our prayers are weak because they are not impassioned by an unyielding and resistless will.”

~ E. M. Bounds

Remember the definition of **resolve** - intentions with strategies attached to them. To be resolved is to be determined. ~ Jon Bloom (Desiring God)

Read 2 Peter 1:3-12

Tucson

God has invited us to actively live out our faith. We must put our feet to the ground and boldly proclaim the joy of the gospel. This joy is expressed through our normal daily routines. This joy is explained through our sensitive and timely conversations. We serve, rest, and have confidence in a God who changes lives.

- Ask Jesus to open your heart, mind, eyes, and arms to the tremendous opportunities which cross your path everyday.
- Pray through each quality listed in 2 Peter 1:3-12:
 - virtue
 - self-control
 - godliness
 - love
 - knowledge
 - steadfastness
 - brotherly affection

What is your relationship with the city of Tucson?

All of us have our daily routines. They include numerous interactions with people through our wonderful and diverse city.

Reflect on the rhythm of each of your days. Who are the people that you see regularly? Take time to see (mental image) the people you interact with at the gym, in the break room, at your favorite restaurant or coffee shop. What do you see? Do you see people who could be touched by the love of Jesus?

- Ask Jesus to give you insight in how you can pray for each of these individuals.
- Trust and ask the Holy Spirit to give you opportunities to speak about truth and the hope that you have in Jesus with these individuals.
- Ask God to expand your faith and to grow your understanding that He, in fact, changes lives.

In addition there are many parts of this city that we do not interact with on a regular basis. Think deeply about the people groups that are represented.

- Pray fervently for the gospel activity that is happening all around. Pray that each person would be able to hear the truth of Jesus in their heart language. Ask the Holy Spirit to develop and build effective church communities to reach the unique needs of each of these people groups.

Second Mile

Now pray through the virtues listed in 2 Peter 1:3-12 with your church community in mind.

- Pray that the passions of Second Mile and the passions of your heart line up.
- Ask Jesus to help you link arms with your church in order to “Radically amplify Jesus through cultural engagement.”
- Pray that community groups would be places of refuge. Ask Jesus to give each community group leader a clear vision for biblical discussion, hospitality, and opportunities to serve their neighborhoods.
- Pray for foster care, pregnancy centers, homeless shelters, law enforcement, the justice system, hospitals, fire departments, single moms, etc...
- Pray for the staff of Second Mile, pray for the Elders, pray for the volunteers.
- Pray for each of the different ministries that are part of Second Mile. Ask that each would impact lives with the glorious grace of God.

Iron & Iron

Second Mile Kids

Vessel (college ministry)

Moxie

Cord of Hope

Seeds

Personal

“To this end we always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling and may fulfill every resolve for good and every work of faith by his power,”

~ 2 Thessalonians 1:11

- Ask the Holy Spirit to move you to a place of effectiveness and fruitfulness in your relationship with Jesus, your relationship with Second Mile, your relationship with your co-workers, your relationship with classmates, and your relationship with the city of Tucson.

Reimagine

“for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.”

~ 1 Timothy 4:8

Pray fervently for a growth in godliness!

What if...

- my love for God and my love for others saturated every aspect of life?
- the Bible became so much more relevant because I have committed to reading or listening to it in its entirety?
- I found healing and embraced truth?

Pray radical prayers!

Pray that we would see great numbers of people repent and give their lives to Jesus. Pick a number and pray that God would exceed your expectation.

Pray that we would celebrate the transformation of life through baptism. Ask the Holy Spirit to move in powerful ways.

Pray for Jesus-centered marriages. Ask God to bring healing and hope to each marriage in Second Mile.

Pray for parents and children. Ask God to bring tender love, care, and perseverance into the lives of parents. Ask the Holy Spirit to enable parents to speak truth to their children with compassion. Pray that each of our children in Second Mile would grow up believing the gospel and actively living out a relationship with Jesus.

Pray for global, missional, partnerships. Pray that we as a church would connect with what God is doing among the nations.

Pray that God would bring the resources necessary to bring on another full-time pastoral staff member. We desire greater attention given to the community groups and would love God to bring us an individual who is passionate about discipleship and spiritual formation.

Pray for the Spirit of God to move powerfully through our city.

Pray for healing; pray against addiction; pray that the powerful testimony of redeemed lives would start an incredible movement of God.

Answered Prayer Second Mile Experienced in 2013 to Lead You in Worship and Thanksgiving

“We never know how God will answer our prayers, but we can expect that He will get us involved in His plan for the answer. If we are true intercessors, we must be ready to take part in God’s work on behalf of the people for whom we pray.”

~ Corrie Ten Boom

“If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!”

~ Matthew 7:11

“And whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith.”

~ Matthew 21:22

In 2009, Second Mile moved from Calvary Baptist Church to 22nd Street Church. During that time we picked up several east side families. We continued to ask God to move us to the heart of the city, and in October 2013, God moved us to Emmanuel, which is the exact geographical center of Tucson. Three people were baptized. We added 14 new members to our body. One new community group began.

2013 was a year of systems and leadership development.

- Volunteers take care of church finances, coordinating the four kids church classes, and the set up/tear down and hospitality for the gathering.
- More than twenty additional people stepped up this year to invest in our children through volunteering to serve in the 2M kids ministry.
- More people are singing, playing, working sound, filming, and flipping slides to facilitate worship during our gathering.

- Thirteen people participated in Persevering in the Second Mile (a leadership training class.)

Our first full church Thanksgiving Celebration promoted community and gratefulness.

Seeds Community Center received its official non-profit 501c3 status! Seeds leadership continues to change, learn, and grow as we patiently wait for God’s best direction in this unique ministry opportunity. God is moving through Seeds! Little by little, step-by-step, faith-by-faith, it is a grace in progress.

- Ten families participated in a fund raiser/outreach photo shoot through Seeds.
- Seeds “filled the stands” at several Special Olympic Events.
- The garden at Howell Elementary has provided vegetables and great learning experiences for the children, teachers, and staff of the school.
- A massive Water Harvesting Project was implemented at Howell Elementary.
- Seeds volunteers provided several meals for families at Howell Elementary for Dave’s Dinners.

Our church continues to raise up families. We celebrated the new marriages of seven couples and welcomed six babies this year. We pray this is an obvious way God continues to answer the vision He gave us to reach the next generation for years and years to come!

God is actively leading more in our body towards adoption and foster care.

This was our 9th year of taking beautiful gifts to women through our Cord of Hope ministry.

Vessel (our college ministry) grew from five to twelve actively involved, spiritually hungry college students. Curtis and Jenna continue to grow in hospitality and leadership as they lead the students.

More than 90 men and women participated in the Iron & Iron and Moxie retreats.

Moxie Mentors (women mentoring women) is stronger than ever. Women continue to meet together to challenge each other to grow deep with Jesus.

Many men are engaged in Sharpening Sessions and Crash Groups working towards developing the ethos of men's discipleship in our church.

God deepened our understanding of His word greater than we could have asked or imagined.

- In 1 & 2 Peter we were challenged to be sober minded and alert, that we can be totally equipped for this life through His divine power, that God's character is steadfast.
- So far, through the parables we have learned that Jesus is about shifting paradigms and empowering us through His Spirit to be overflowing with salt and light, that the seed of His word being planted in fertile soil produces a beautiful harvest, that the kingdom of heaven is of infinite worth, and that His abundant grace is shown as the Good Shepherd goes after His sheep.
- Through advent we looked at the birth of Jesus and how he has transformed the lives of so many people in our church. We were privileged through video to hear some of those stories.