

# COMING CLOSER TO JESUS (V.2)

## GENERAL INFORMATION

**“Coming Closer to Jesus” (Volume 2): 40 Days of Consecration - Logistics & Guide for Children (Ages 5-12)**

**CONSECRATION DATES:** Sunday, September 8, 2024 - Thursday, October 17, 2024

### **THEMATIC SCRIPTURE (WHAT DOES IT SAY?):**

**Exodus 34:2,5,27-29 NLT (New Living Translation)**

[2] Be ready in the morning to **climb up Mount Sinai and present yourself to me** on the top of the mountain. [5] **Then the LORD came down in a cloud and stood there with him;** and he called out his own name, Yahweh. [27] Then the LORD said to Moses, "Write down all these instructions, for they represent the terms of the covenant I am making with you and with Israel." [28] **Moses remained there on the mountain with the LORD forty days and forty nights.** In all that time he ate no bread and drank no water. And the LORD wrote the terms of the covenant-the Ten Commandments-on the stone tablets. [29] **When Moses came down Mount Sinai** carrying the two stone tablets inscribed with the terms of the covenant, he wasn't aware that **his face had become radiant because he had spoken to the LORD.**

### **MEANING OF SCRIPTURE (WHAT DOES IT MEAN?):**

In Exodus 34, an important event happens where Moses goes up a mountain to meet with God and get new stone tablets with God's rules. This is because the first tablets were broken when the people sinned by making a golden calf. Going up the mountain represents a new beginning and fixing the broken promise between God and His people.

When Moses meets God, God shows who He is by saying He is kind, loving, and patient. This tells us that God always keeps His promises and loves us deeply. God then gives Moses new rules about how to worship Him, celebrate special times, and treat others fairly.

When Moses comes back down the mountain, his face is shining brightly because of his close time with God. The people are amazed and a bit scared, so Moses wears a veil to cover his face when he talks to them. This shows how powerful and amazing God's presence is.

### **PURPOSE (WHAT DOES IT SAY AND MEAN TO US?):**

When we set aside special time for consecration, we're making something or someone very special and dedicated to God. Exodus 34 helps us understand this by telling the story of Moses going up a mountain to get new stone tablets from God. This was because the first tablets were broken when the people did something wrong. Getting new tablets means starting fresh and working on a better relationship with God.



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In this chapter, God shows Moses that He is kind, loving, and patient. These qualities help us understand how we should act towards others. God wants us to be caring and forgiving just like He is.

God also gives Moses new rules about how to worship Him and live rightly. This shows us that we need to follow God's rules and avoid things that take us away from Him. During consecration, it's a good time to think about our lives, get rid of things that distract us, and focus on following God's ways.

Finally, when Moses comes down from the mountain, his face is glowing because he was close to God. This reminds us that being with God can change us in wonderful ways. So, Exodus 34 helps us see that spending time with God and following His rules brings us closer to Him and changes us for the better.



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**Dear Emerge Youth/Emerge Guardian:**

Pastor is proud of you already! "Consecration" in our church means we have dedicated a special time to focus, pray, and discover how to become more like Jesus. Your brilliant mind is probably saying, "Pastor, shouldn't we do that all that time?" You're absolutely right! The next forty days are an opportunity for us to do it together. Because you're a part of our church family, too, and I know God has great things for your life, I wanted you to have the chance to join your family, friends, and church in "coming closer to Jesus!"

Jesus said in Matthew 19:14, "Let the children come to me. Don't stop them! For the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to those who are like these children." That means you! But how do we do that? We practice disciplines (or exercises) like reading the Bible, praising God, praying, fasting, helping others, and giving. Every year, we honor God by spending 40 days praying and not eating certain foods to get closer to Him. Just like Moses spent 40 days on a mountain with God, we are also going on our special journey. God has promised that if we spend this time with Him, He will be close to us and help us shine with His love and wisdom.

When we talk about "consecration," it means setting apart time, people, or things to be special and dedicated to God. Moses going up the mountain to meet with God teaches us how we can focus on being close to God during these 40 days. We want to follow what God wants and show it in everything we do.

In August, we learned about being consistent, which means always agreeing with what God says and does. For six weeks, we will focus on these important things:

1. **Reflection and Readiness** – Getting ready to spend time with God (Exodus 34:2).
2. **Reintroduction and Revelation** – Learning more about who God is (Exodus 34:5).
3. **Reverence** – Showing respect and worship to God (Exodus 34:8).
4. **Renewal and Reaffirmation** – Expecting new and amazing things from God (Exodus 34:10,27).
5. **Receiving and Representing** – Following God's instructions and showing them in our lives (Exodus 34:27).
6. **Radiance and Returning** – Letting God's light shine through us (Exodus 34:35).

Use this time to think about your own hopes and prayers. Write them down, or talk about them with God. If you want, you can share your prayers with us. Join Lady D and me from September 8 to October 17 on this special journey. Let's get our hearts and minds ready to be close to God and see how He works in our lives!

If you have questions, come find me, Lady D, or ask an adult to help you. Did I tell you that I'm proud of you already? You'll do great, and I can't wait to see how you come closer to Jesus!

**-Pastor James**



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## WHAT IS FASTING?

Fasting is choosing to stop doing an activity to enjoy God's presence. When fasting, we decide not to do activities such as eating a meal, using our gadgets, playing games, watching movies, or any other action for a period of time. But we replace these activities with fruitful time with God, such as praying, reading the Bible, and worshipping Him. While most people stop eating, talking with your parents and guardians about what you will fast from is best so they can guide you.

When we fast and pray, we talk and listen to God. We check our actions and repent of sin. We align ourselves with God's heart by seeking His answers to our questions, praying for His provisions, and asking God for breakthroughs in our lives. Fasting shows our dependence on God. It shows that God is more important than what sustains our physical bodies.

## WHY SHOULD WE FAST?

### GOD EXPECTS US TO FAST.

"Whenever you fast, do not put on a gloomy face as the hypocrites do, for they neglect their appearance so that they will be noticed by men when they are fasting. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full. But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face." – Matthew 6:16-17

Jesus said, "Whenever you fast," not "If you fast." This means that fasting, like prayer, is not an option. Fasting is part of the Christian life.

### JESUS FASTED.

"And after He had fasted forty days and forty nights, He then became hungry." – Matthew 4:2

Before Jesus' ministry, He fasted for forty days. He knew He needed spiritual strength to fulfill His purpose. Fasting makes us physically weak but spiritually stronger and more prepared to do God's work.



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## HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

### BEFORE FASTING

- Talk to your parents & guardians. Not all people are allowed to fast. It is best to talk to them about what you plan to fast from so they can guide you well.
- Commit to a Fasting Plan. What activities will you stop doing? What fruitful time with God will you do instead?
- Accomplish My Gratitude List and My Prayer List.
- We will use DISCOVER, DEVELOP, AND DO as we pray, fast, dig deeper into God's Word, and apply what God revealed to us through the Bible.

### DISCOVER

Let's discover who God is and His will through His Word.

- Read the assigned passages. Highlight or mark the words and phrases that mean the most to you or the passages that struck you.
- Write the things you discovered about God in the passage. What character of God is revealed in the passage? How would you describe God based on what you read?
- Use these descriptions to worship God in prayer.

### DEVELOP

Let's develop a habit of digging deeper into God's Word and praying through His Word.

- What is the most important lesson you have learned from the passage?
- How can you pray through this verse? Pray to God through His Word.

### DO

Let's seek ways to apply what God revealed to us through His word and our prayers.

- Write down "I Will" statements you plan to do because of what you've learned from God's word. These statements must be specific actions with a timeframe.
- Pray for the focus of each day - Nations, Church, Families, Youth & Kids, Self.
- You can do an activity with your family to seek ways to apply each lesson.



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## WEEKLY READINGS

Pick one verse per fast day. We'd encourage you to read The Message Bible, English Standard Version, or New Living Translation of the Bible for better comprehension. Don't forget to use **DISCOVER, DEVELOP, AND DO** as we pray, fast, dig deeper into God's Word, and apply what God revealed to us through the Bible.

### **Week 1: "Coming Closer to Jesus By Spending Time With Him"**

Devotional Scriptures: Exodus 33-34 (entirety), Proverbs 16:3, Numbers 30:2, Romans 12:1-2, Matthew 6:33

### **Week 2: "Coming Closer to Jesus Learning About Him"**

Devotional Scriptures: Exodus 33-34 (entirety), John 4:24, Revelation 22:13, Exodus 3:14, Genesis 1

### **Week 3: "Coming Closer to Jesus Through Worship"**

Devotional Scriptures: Exodus 33-34 (entirety), Hebrews 12:28, Proverbs 1:7, Psalm 95:6, Habakkuk 3:17-18

### **Week 4: "Coming Closer to Jesus By Learning What He Says About Me"**

Devotional Scriptures: Exodus 33-34 (entirety), Isaiah 40:31, Psalm 51:10, Lamentations 3:22-23, Galatians 2:20, 1 Peter 2:9

### **Week 5: "Coming Closer to Jesus By Becoming Like Him"**

Devotional Scriptures: Exodus 33-34 (entirety), Psalm 119:105, Proverbs 19:20, James 1:5, Romans 10:17, Hebrews 11

### **Week 6: "Coming Closer to Jesus All the Time"**

Devotional Scriptures: Exodus 33-34 (entirety), Genesis 1:26-28, John 1:1, Amos 3:7, 2 Timothy 3:16, Hebrews 1:3, Habakkuk 2:14, Exodus 33:18-23, Revelation 21:23

***Important: Foot Washing Service will be on Wednesday, October 16, 2024, at 12 PM and 7 PM.***

***Important: "Morning Ascent" (Exodus 34:2 NLT) will be on Sunday, October 20, 2024, at 5 AM.***

***Important: Holy Communion will be on Sunday, October 20, 2024, at 11 AM.***

***Be sure to ask a parent, guardian, or Pastor what these important days mean!***



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## MY FASTING PLAN

Talk to your parents or guardians about what you intend to fast from so they can guide you well. Then, write down the activities or things that you commit to fast each day this week. Remember that you will replace these activities with fruitful time with God through praying, reading the Bible, and worship. You'll use this plan six times during our consecration. So, make copies, rewrite your list, or have fun and design your own plan!

**Hey Parents/Guardians! You know your child and what is best for them. Maybe they can or cannot fast all seven days. Pick 2-3 days during the week as fasting days for your child. The goal is not suffering. We aim to teach our children intentional sacrifice to be more like Jesus Christ.**

**Week** (What week of consecration is this?): \_\_\_\_\_

### Day 1

Fasting Options

- Watching Movies/TV
- Playing \_\_\_\_\_
- Gadget \_\_\_\_\_
- Food \_\_\_\_\_
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

### Day 2

Fasting Options

- Watching Movies/TV
- Playing \_\_\_\_\_
- Gadget \_\_\_\_\_
- Food \_\_\_\_\_
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

### Day 3

Fasting Options

- Watching Movies/TV
- Playing \_\_\_\_\_
- Gadget \_\_\_\_\_
- Food \_\_\_\_\_
- Other \_\_\_\_\_



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## Day 4

Fasting Options

- Watching Movies/TV
- Playing \_\_\_\_\_
- Gadget \_\_\_\_\_
- Food \_\_\_\_\_
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

## Day 5

Fasting Options

- Watching Movies/TV
- Playing \_\_\_\_\_
- Gadget \_\_\_\_\_
- Food \_\_\_\_\_
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

## Day 6

Fasting Options

- Watching Movies/TV
- Playing \_\_\_\_\_
- Gadget \_\_\_\_\_
- Food \_\_\_\_\_
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

## Day 7

Fasting Options

- Watching Movies/TV
- Playing \_\_\_\_\_
- Gadget \_\_\_\_\_
- Food \_\_\_\_\_
- Other \_\_\_\_\_





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## MY GRATITUDE LIST

Draw or list the things you are thankful to God for.



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## MY PRAYER LIST

Write down what you want to pray for under the following categories:

**The Nations (Example: Are there others in different countries you'd like to pray for?)**

**The Church and Church Leaders (Example: Pastor James, Lady Desiree, or Christ Church Apostolic)**

**Family and Friends (Here's a challenge: Pray for others who may not be kind to you)**

**Health (Example: "Lord, let me have a strong body." or "Help, \_\_\_\_\_ feel better.")**

**Yourself (Example: "Lord, help me to be friends with you.")**



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## MY DISCOVER, DEVELOP, AND DO WORKSHEET

Instructions: Read your devotional scripture for today and answer the following questions.

### DISCOVER

What did you discover about GOD from this passage?

### DEVELOP

What is the most important lesson you have learned from the passage? How can you pray through this verse?

### DO

Write down "I Will" statements you plan to do because of what you've learned from God's Word. These statements must be specific actions within a set timeframe.

Examples: I will pray for healing for [cite a person's name] every night for 14 days. I will ask forgiveness from [cite a name] for [mention an offense you did] this week.

**I WILL....**

**I WILL....**



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## SUGGESTED FAMILY ACTIVITIES

Consider one family activity to participate in per week.

### Option 1: Pail Prayers

- As a family, talk about the needs and concerns you see in your country and around the world.
- Use a mug or pail to create a prayer stick container. Decorate it with stickers or scrapbooking buttons. Using popsicle sticks and permanent markers, write down the needs and concerns you see in your country or the world. Put the sticks in the mug or pail.
- As you gather as a family daily (devotion or meal), pick one or two items you will bring to God in your prayers. You may assign someone to lead the prayer. Continue doing the activity even after the prayer and fasting week.

### Option 2: The Mystery Bag

- Talk as a family about the people they know who are part of the church.
- On small strips of paper, instruct the kids to write the names of the people they know who are part of the church. Younger kids may opt to draw their own representation. Include the names of our church leaders and any volunteers you know.
- Put these strips of paper in a paper bag or mystery bag.
- Any family member may draw from the bag at any time and pray for the person they have drawn at any given time.

### Option 3: Minefields

- Blindfold one person in the group. Then, set up an obstacle course or minefield around them. The goal is for the blindfolded person to cross the field without bumping into the "minefields" by listening to the instructions of another person.
- Talk about the importance of listening to God in relation to activity.
- Talk about the importance of clear communication and listening to one another as a family, as a parent, and as their child.
  - Why is clear communication important?
  - Why is listening to people who see and know the way important?
  - What usually causes misunderstandings in your family?
- Bring to God in prayer your family.

### Option 4: Healing Wall

- Talk about the people you know who are ill or sick. Talk about how sickness can affect families and other people.
- On a poster board, paste two band-aids or pieces of plaster together to form a cross.
- Each family member can write the names of people who need healing around the cross.
- Pray for them as a family.



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## Option 5: Alphabet Praise

- Place a large piece of easel paper on the wall with the alphabet written on one side.
- Think and write a word that begins with each letter of the alphabet that will bring praise to God in the lives of the Emerge Kids. For example,
  - A for "God, you're AWESOME for you continue to protect us."
  - B for "Thank you, God, for BRINGING kids to Emerge."
  - C for "We thank you for CARING for me every day."

## Option 6: Tower of Praise

- As a family, convene to give God all the praise and thanksgiving.
- Each family member will recall the personal blessings he or she has received from God.
- Each family member will stack a piece of Lego or a block as he or she praises and thanks God for each blessing.
- After praying, process as a family into the tower of praise and thanksgiving you have made. Talk about how God has blessed each one of us.



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## DAILY CONFESSIONS & AFFIRMATION FOR SELF AND PRAISES TO GOD BASED ON EXODUS 34

1. I am renewed in God's covenant and embrace His grace. (Exodus 34:10)
2. God's compassion surrounds me daily. (Exodus 34:6)
3. I am grateful for God's abundant love and faithfulness. (Exodus 34:6)
4. I trust in God's promise to guide and bless me. (Exodus 34:10)
5. God's presence transforms and renews me. (Exodus 34:29)
6. I am a recipient of God's graciousness and mercy. (Exodus 34:6)
7. I walk in God's path of righteousness and justice. (Exodus 34:11)
8. God's instructions illuminate my path. (Exodus 34:27)
9. I honor God's commandments with my life. (Exodus 34:28)
10. I am committed to worshiping God in spirit and truth. (John 4:24)
11. I reflect God's glory in all I do. (Exodus 34:29)
12. God's love and faithfulness are my constant assurance. (Exodus 34:6)
13. I receive God's divine instructions with an open heart. (Exodus 34:27)
14. I am blessed by God's steadfast presence. (Exodus 34:24)
15. God's radiance is reflected in my life. (Exodus 34:29)
16. I walk confidently in God's covenant promises. (Exodus 34:10)
17. I trust in God's promise to be with me. (Exodus 34:24)
18. I live out God's commands with integrity and faith. (Exodus 34:28)
19. God's presence brings me peace and joy. (Exodus 34:29)
20. I am grateful for the renewal of God's covenant. (Exodus 34:10)
21. I embrace God's forgiveness and grace daily. (Exodus 34:7)
22. God's love for me is unending and eternal. (Exodus 34:6)
23. I am guided by God's divine wisdom and understanding. (Exodus 34:27)
24. I am transformed by the glory of God's presence. (Exodus 34:29)
25. I honor God's commandments with my obedience. (Exodus 34:28)
26. I receive God's blessings and protection. (Exodus 34:24)
27. God's faithfulness renews me every day. (Exodus 34:6)
28. I am a living testimony of God's grace. (Exodus 34:10)
29. I seek to reflect God's glory in all aspects of my life. (Exodus 34:29)
30. I am strengthened by God's love and faithfulness. (Exodus 34:6)
31. God's presence is my guiding light. (Exodus 34:24)
32. I trust in God's divine instructions for my life. (Exodus 34:27)
33. I am a vessel of God's glory and grace. (Exodus 34:29)
34. God's commandments are a source of wisdom and joy. (Exodus 34:28)
35. I am empowered by God's love and truth. (Exodus 34:6)
36. God's guidance leads me to righteousness. (Exodus 34:11)
37. I am continually refreshed by God's presence. (Exodus 34:29)
38. I celebrate the renewal of God's covenant in my life. (Exodus 34:10)
39. I am shaped by God's divine instructions and wisdom. (Exodus 34:27)



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40. God's faithfulness is my constant assurance. (Exodus 34:6)
41. I walk in the light of God's glory. (Exodus 34:29)
42. I am guided by the principles of God's commandments. (Exodus 34:28)
43. I receive God's mercy and grace with gratitude. (Exodus 34:7)
44. God's love and faithfulness are my daily encouragement. (Exodus 34:6)
45. I am a reflection of God's glory in the world. (Exodus 34:29)
46. I am aligned with God's divine will and instructions. (Exodus 34:27)
47. God's presence renews and strengthens me daily. (Exodus 34:29)
48. I honor God's commandments through my actions. (Exodus 34:28)
49. I trust in the promises of God's covenant. (Exodus 34:10)
50. I am enveloped by God's everlasting love. (Exodus 34:6)

## PRAISES TO GOD

51. I praise God for His infinite compassion and grace. (Exodus 34:6)
52. I exalt God for His unwavering faithfulness. (Exodus 34:6)
53. I worship God for His divine presence and glory. (Exodus 34:29)
54. I thank God for the renewal of His covenant with me. (Exodus 34:10)
55. I glorify God for His abundant love and mercy. (Exodus 34:6)
56. I celebrate God's divine guidance and instruction. (Exodus 34:27)
57. I honor God for His promises of protection and blessing. (Exodus 34:24)
58. I lift up praise for the transformative power of God's presence. (Exodus 34:29)
59. I adore God for His continual faithfulness and grace. (Exodus 34:6)
60. I worship God for His illuminating divine instructions. (Exodus 34:27)
61. I rejoice in the renewal of God's covenant promises. (Exodus 34:10)
62. I praise God for the radiance of His glory in my life. (Exodus 34:29)
63. I honor God for His guidance and wisdom. (Exodus 34:27)
64. I exalt God for His steadfast love and faithfulness. (Exodus 34:6)
65. I thank God for the blessings of His covenant. (Exodus 34:24)
66. I glorify God for His transformative presence. (Exodus 34:29)
67. I celebrate God's divine commandments and instructions. (Exodus 34:28)
68. I worship God for His enduring grace and mercy. (Exodus 34:6)
69. I lift my voice in praise for God's righteous guidance. (Exodus 34:11)
70. I adore God for His everlasting faithfulness and love. (Exodus 34:6)
71. I rejoice in the glory of God's presence in my life. (Exodus 34:29)
72. I praise God for His divine protection and direction. (Exodus 34:24)
73. I exalt God for His life-giving commandments. (Exodus 34:28)
74. I glorify God for His covenant renewal and promises. (Exodus 34:10)
75. I celebrate the radiance of God's glory in all I do. (Exodus 34:29)
76. I honor God for His merciful and gracious nature. (Exodus 34:6)
77. I lift up praise for God's guidance and wisdom in my life. (Exodus 34:27)
78. I thank God for His covenant of blessing and protection. (Exodus 34:24)



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79. I glorify God for His transformative presence and glory. (Exodus 34:29)
80. I exalt God for His faithfulness and enduring love. (Exodus 34:6)
81. I praise God for the renewal of His promises and covenant. (Exodus 34:10)
82. I worship God for His divine instructions and wisdom. (Exodus 34:27)
83. I celebrate the impact of God's glory in my life. (Exodus 34:29)
84. I adore God for His compassion and grace toward me. (Exodus 34:6)
85. I lift my voice in praise for God's steadfast love and faithfulness. (Exodus 34:6)
86. I thank God for the blessings of His guidance and protection. (Exodus 34:24)
87. I glorify God for the radiant impact of His presence in my life. (Exodus 34:29)
88. I rejoice in the divine instruction and wisdom given by God. (Exodus 34:27)
89. I honor God for His unwavering commitment to His covenant promises. (Exodus 34:10)
90. I lift up praise for the transformative power of God's presence. (Exodus 34:29)
91. I exalt God for His abundant grace and mercy in my life. (Exodus 34:6)
92. I glorify God for His divine instructions that guide my steps. (Exodus 34:27)
93. I thank God for His unchanging love and faithfulness. (Exodus 34:6)
94. I worship God for the renewal and strength His presence brings. (Exodus 34:29)
95. I celebrate the blessings of God's covenant and His protection. (Exodus 34:24)
96. I adore God for His righteous and just commandments. (Exodus 34:28)
97. I lift my heart in praise for the glory of God revealed in my life. (Exodus 34:29)
98. I rejoice in the continuous renewal of God's promises. (Exodus 34:10)
99. I honor God for His gracious presence and divine guidance. (Exodus 34:27)
100. I exalt God for His love that transforms and uplifts me daily. (Exodus 34:6)

