



## PRAYER & FASTING GUIDE

Wednesday, May 4th

Written by Brandon Steele

One of my favorite parts of spring is that people are outside again. It feels like throughout winter, I only see some of my neighbors when they're getting their mail or taking their trash to the curb. It's nice to see people going on walks, riding bikes, mowing their yards, and just enjoying the weather after hibernating for several months.

I don't know about you, but there are a handful of my neighbors that I know well. It's not uncommon to have a long conversation with them or for them to come over for dinner or to find ourselves talking about the deeper things of life. I also have many neighbors that, for a host of reasons, I only know their name at best. Several of my neighbors are not followers of Jesus and there is one in particular that I have been praying for for a long time. Most of our conversations are pretty surface level. While he knows that I'm a pastor, he hasn't shown any interest in Jesus. The other day I found myself wondering, "What would I say to him if he were to ask me about Jesus?"

Think about that for a minute. Maybe there is someone in your life — maybe a grandparent, neighbor, brother or teammate at work that doesn't know Jesus. What would you tell them if they asked you about Jesus?

Peter, the fisherman turned apostle, wrote this beautiful line in the middle of his letter, "*always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect* (1 Peter 3:15). His aim was to equip us so that when given an opportunity, we wouldn't be caught flat-footed, but we would be ready to share with them about Jesus.

Today as we fast and pray as a community, my aim is to help us *be prepared* for these moments. Hopefully through the spring and summer seasons, the LORD will provide us with many opportunities to share Jesus with those around us and we that we will get the joy of seeing them come to know and follow the GOD we love.

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### Here are a few things to do in your time(s) of prayer today:

- Ask the LORD to help you remember times when you have experienced the LORD (A few examples: when you experienced his comfort, power, healing, guidance, etc.)
- Thank & praise him for those moments
- Imagine you are talking to one of those people in your life that doesn't know Jesus. Write out in 3-5 sentences what you would say to them if they asked you why you follow Jesus.
- Call someone from our church family and share what you wrote.
- Pray with them for opportunities to share.
- Pray by name for people in your life that you want to come to know Jesus.