

# January 5, 2020 First Sunday in the New Year

We want you to spend it with us at Shiloh!

"A Beautiful New Beginning"

Worship Celebrations 8:00 and 11:00 AM

Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church . 855 East 20th Avenue . Anchorage, AK . 907.276.6673

# **2020 WINTER BIBLE STUDY**



# SEVEN CHURCHES OF ASIA In The Book of Revelation

#### Wednesday | January 8—February 19 | 7:00 PM

Seven Churches of Asia: By studying the messages from Christ revealed in seven letters to the seven churches of Asia, we will find encouragement and instruction for our church, as we begin this new year. We will look at each church's context of ministry, the challenges they faced, and the directions given to them.

Jesus has a dream for His Church. He knows what he wants. He wants a Church in love with Him, on fire, unstained by the world, faithful, authentic, full of faith, and filled with the Holy Spirit. He reveals this desire to the Apostle John with thunderous words in a spectacular vision. It's all recorded in the Revelation of John, chapters two and three. Join us as we look into the heart of Jesus for us!



"A Beautiful New Beginning"

# Shiloh 2020 FASTING AND PRAYER GUIDE

21 Days Praying 4 Days Fasting 31 Days Devotional Guide



#### Why Pray?

Prayer is our greatest weapon. Not only does it draw us closer to God, it unleashes his power into our world. Through prayer we learn the heart of the Father in all the matters of our world and through spending time in his presence we begin to be conformed more and more into his image. Through discipline, prayer changes from being a duty to a delight. Simply said, the more you pray, the more you want to pray and the greater its impact. We will continue to pray every Saturday at 1:00pm

Our Heavenly Father desires our love, our attention, our fellowship, and our worship and each of these begins in an attitude of prayer. When Jesus was asked by the disciples to teach them how to pray he taught them what we now call, "The Lord's Prayer." In that prayer Jesus acknowledges the sovereignty of God then prays that God's will and kingdom would come to earth as it is in heaven. Through prayer we literally bring God's desires and kingdom from the heavenly realm into our earthly realm.

#### Why Fast?

Fasting is an act of willing abstinence from something for a period of time for spiritual purposes. It is a spiritual discipline that allows one to reset and refocus on God by removing something that we normally enjoy. The goal of fasting is to draw closer to God. Biblical fasting always has to do with eliminating distractions for a spiritual purpose; it hits the reset button of our soul and renews us from the inside out. It also enables us to celebrate the goodness and mercy of God and prepare our hearts for all the good things God desires to bring into our lives. Remember, your personal fast should present a level of challenge. It is very important to know your body and your options, but most importantly, to seek God in prayer and follow what the Holy Spirit leads you to do.

Use this guide to direct you in your prayer and fast focus. You may also want to fast and pray for your family, friends, someone else or even a particular circumstance or situation. We will be praying and fasting corporately three times in January on Saturday; the 4, 11, 18.

God rewards fasting because when done with the right heart, in confesses that we are helpless without Him, and we require Him to give us the hope we need to press on in the things He has planned. This brings Glory to God!


#### **Method of Devotional Time**

Setting Prayer

Read Devotion Scripture

Meditate On Passage

Journal Thoughts Closing Prayer


# Types of Fasts and What They Require

Using wisdom is always important in fasting

Daniel Fast: No meat, sweet foods, or strong drinks (see Daniel 10:2-3). This can be done for an extended period of time. This could also be considered a vegetarian diet be- cause there is no meat eaten.

**Half-Day**: This is a 12hour fast where you pick the same time to start and end. When breaking this fast you do so with a light meal (see Acts 10:30-31).

Partial Fast: This would be not eating one main meal you would usually eat on a daily routine, such as breakfast, or lunch, or dinner. This meal would be skipped until the fast was over.

Complete Fast: This would require you to abstain from all solid foods, liquids only. When Jesus fasted in the desert, the Bible says, "After fasting forty days and forty nights, He was hungry." This verse does not mention Jesus being thirsty (see Luke 4:1-2).

Total Fast: This is a full and complete fast, no food or drink. Acts 9:9 describes when Paul went on a full fast for three days following his encounter with Jesus on the road to Damascus. Esther also called for this type of fast in Esther 4:15-16. This type of fast should be done with extreme caution and not for extended periods of time.

Juice Fast: This is a fast where only fresh fruits and vegetables are used. If you can't juice your own fruits or veggies try buying juices without sugar or additives. When using fruits that are acidic, such as lemons, oranges, and even tomatoes dilute them with water for your stomach's sake.

#### Other Activities to Fast

Although not mentioned in the Bible, we as Disciples of Jesus today can also commit to fasting from other activities:

- ⇒ Electronics
- ⇒ Computers
- $\Rightarrow$  TV
- ⇒ Video games
- ⇒ Limited cell phone use if possible
- ⇒ Try to give up some entertainment like sports and movies and focus more on prayer and studying the Word of God during the times we do some of the mentioned activities.

#### You Choose Your Fast

James 4:8 says, "Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you." Drawing closer to God is the goal of our fasting and prayer! God still has amazing things in store for us, and I am encouraged and excited about this New Year.

So choose your fast to begin on January 4, 2020! Begin your reading through Proverbs 31-day devotional on January 1. Take this time and pray for Shiloh. Pray for God to move with divine direction and that in 2020 He will give us clear visions for Shiloh both corporately and individually. We will gather for corporate prayer and fast on the dates listed below. Pray every day during the month of January as you go through the devotional.

## **Corporate Fast Days**

January 4, 2020 | Saturday 6:00am - 6:00pm [see types of fast above]

January 11, 2020 | Saturday 6:00am - 6:00pm [see types of fast above]

January 18, 2020 | Saturday 6:00am - 6:00pm [see types of fast above]

## **Corporate Prayer Days**

January 4, 2020 | Saturday @1:00pm Cooperate Prayer at Shiloh

January 11, 2020 | Saturday @1:00pm Cooperate Prayer at Shiloh

January 18, 2020 | Saturday @1:00pm Cooperate Prayer at Shiloh

# **January 2020 Devotional Reading**

## **Book of Proverbs:**

The Scripture Reading for the month of January is the Book of Proverbs; one chapter a day starting January 1, 2020. This book will show us how Godly wisdom merges with real life. A proverb, sometimes called a "maxim," is a truth condensed into a few words and stated in a memorable fashion with application to a variety of situations in life. Pay close attention to the differing outcomes of those who follow God's wisdom and those who don't. Have a Blessfull reading!

Proverbs 1:	Wisdom That Shouts!
Proverbs 2:	Simple Knowledge
Proverbs 3:	Love & Loyalty
Proverbs 4:	Two Roads
Proverbs 5:	Polluted Streams
Proverbs 6:	Things That God Hates
Proverbs 7:	The Infamous Harlot/Seductress
Proverbs 8:	Trust God's Word
Proverbs 9:	Wisdom vs. Folly
Proverbs 10:	Righteousness vs. Wickedness
Proverbs 11:	Where's the Integrity?
Proverbs 12:	A Little Bit of Everything
Proverbs 13:	Our Whole Heart
Proverbs 14:	Priceless Wisdom
Proverbs 15:	Speak Your Mind?
Proverbs 16:	Providence vs. Creating Your Destiny
Proverbs 17:	Minor Tweaks
Proverbs 18:	The Golden Rule
Proverbs 19:	Where Does Poverty Fit In?
Proverbs 20:	Just God
Proverbs 21:	The Contentious Woman
Proverbs 22:	Common Bond
Proverbs 23:	More Money, More Problems
Proverbs 24:	A Balancing Act
Proverbs 25:	Read the Need
Proverbs 26:	Stop Doing Foolish Things
Proverbs 27:	Flattery, Bragging & Jealousy
Proverbs 28:	Rulers & Laws
Proverbs 29:	Giving & Receiving Criticism
Proverbs 30:	Humble Yourself
Proverbs 31:	A Different Focus