

Welcome to **40 Days of Focus** in our Daily Guide. As we lead up to Easter we will be reading and reflecting in the books of the Bible we are covering in our *Year of the Bible* series so that our focus is on Jesus, and our pursuit is God's will instead of our own.

Grab your notebook and Bible, and let's get started.

Parents: Have you ever wondered how to communicate parts of the Bible that contain ideas or content that aren't age appropriate for your kids? Let us help you sort that out this week. [Parent Prompt](#)

Week 8 Memory Verse | Judges 6:14

Monday, February 23

Read: Judges 17:6

Reflect: Tomorrow begins our countdown of 40 days to Easter weekend. Having a focus on Jesus is a core value for us at NorthRidge Church. It is so easy to get distracted from Him and His will for our lives. Today we will prepare for this special season with purpose.

When Jesus isn't King, you do what you want. It's "your will", not God's will. For the next 40 days, we want to practice keeping our focus on Jesus.

What is something in your life right now that is distracting you from Jesus and His will for your life?

Act: Today, consider how you can minimize that source of distraction in your life. Make a commitment to God of how you will practically do that.

Pray: Father, I want Your will to be done in and through my life. I am ready to set aside what distracts me from what You want. Give me what I need today to begin walking more closely with You in this season. Amen.

Tuesday, February 24

Read: Judges 2:6–19

Reflect: Judges is painfully honest. God’s people forget. They drift. They compromise. The cycle repeats: sin, oppression, crying out, rescue, then drifting again. It’s easy to read that and think, “*How could they?*”

But Judges isn’t just a record of their failure—it’s a mirror for ours.

What’s most striking is God’s heart in response. Even when the people are unfaithful, God is moved by their misery. He raises up a deliverer. He intervenes. He acts with mercy. This is not a story about human willpower or lack; it’s a story about God’s persistence.

It’s also a signpost pointing forward. Israel needed more than a temporary deliverer. We do too. Your greatest need isn’t more self-control; it’s the greater Savior.

Jesus doesn’t simply rescue you from tough circumstances or get you out of a jam. He rescues you from sin and restores your heart to God. Today, don’t hide the cycle. Name it. Bring it into the light. Jesus is not tired of you. He’s calling you back.

Act: Write down one “cycle” you recognize in your life (a pattern you repeat). Circle where it usually starts. Ask: *What lie am I believing right there that triggers this cycle?*

Pray: Jesus, I confess how easily I drift. Bring clarity to my patterns and compassion to my heart. Rescue me again—not just from consequences, but from sin. Re-center my desire on You today. Amen.

Wednesday, February 25

Read: Judges 6:11–16

Reflect: Gideon is hiding when God finds him. That alone is comforting. The angel calls him “mighty warrior,” and Gideon basically says, “You’ve got the wrong guy.” He’s under-resourced, afraid, and convinced God has abandoned his people.

But notice what God does not do. He doesn’t shame Gideon for being weak. He doesn’t demand confidence. He gives a promise: “I will be with you.” That is the foundation of courage in the Bible—not personality, not optimism, not hype. God’s presence.

As you move toward Easter, remember the kind of Savior Jesus is. He doesn’t wait for you to become courageous. He meets you while you’re hiding. He calls you by what He intends to form in you, not by the thing that’s making you hide.

Your weakness doesn’t disqualify you. It often becomes the exact place God displays His strength. (2 Corinthians 12:9) Today, focus on the presence of Jesus with you. Not just Jesus for you—Jesus with you.

Act: Finish this sentence: “Lord, I feel like I’m hiding from _____.” Then write: “But You are with me in _____.”

Pray: Jesus, meet me where I am—not where I pretend to be. Replace my fear with Your presence. Form the courage in me that comes from trusting You. Amen.

Thursday, February 26

Read: Judges 7:2–8

Reflect: God deliberately shrinks Gideon’s army. That sounds backwards until you hear God’s reason: “Israel would boast... ‘My own strength has saved me.’” God loves His people too much to let

them build their identity on self-reliance. We know just how destructive that is in our own lives.

We try to manage life so we can feel in control. We don't always say it, but we live it: *My strength can save me.*

The cross confronts that illusion. At the cross, Jesus wins by surrender. He conquers by laying down His life. The kingdom of God is not powered by ego or ambition; it is powered by love and trust.

If you feel diminished right now—less energy, less clarity, less capacity—don't assume God has left you. You simply have fewer reasons to boast so you can rediscover your need for Jesus.

Today, the focus is not “try harder.” It's “trust deeper.”

Act: Choose one area where you're clinging to control (a relationship, finances, reputation, outcomes, etc.). Open your hands and say out loud as a sign of surrender: “Lord, this _____ belongs to You.”

Pray: Father, free me from the need to prove myself. Teach me to depend on You without fear. Let my life point to Your strength, not mine. Amen.

Friday, February 27

Read: Judges 16:15–22

Reflect: We couldn't spend this week in Judges without touching on Samson. His story is tragic because it's not just about temptation—it's about erosion. His strength was never simply physical; it was tied to a life set apart. But over time, Samson treats his calling more casually and his desires more seriously.

That's what a divided heart does. It makes holy things feel optional and small compromises feel harmless—until the moment you realize you've lost what you assumed would always be there.

“He did not know that the LORD had left him.”

That doesn't mean God is petty or fickle. It means Samson had been drifting for so long that he couldn't recognize what he was losing until it was gone.

Good news: the point of a warning is rescue. Just like Samson's strength was renewed as his focus on his calling returned, so can yours. Easter is coming—the story of God's love refusing to let sin have the final word.

Today, don't treat conviction as condemnation. Treat it as a kindness. The Holy Spirit is calling your attention back to the only One who can heal your divided heart.

Act: Is there a place in your life where the Holy Spirit has been convicting you? (*if not, just ask*) Take that conviction seriously as a warning from a loving God that wants something better.

Pray: Jesus, I don't want a divided heart. Wake me up where I've drifted. Restore what sin has eroded and renew my love for You. Amen.

Saturday, February 28 – Sunday, March 1

Read: Judges 21:25

Reflect: The book of Judges ends with a familiar phrase: “Everyone did as they saw fit.” When God isn't King, something or someone else will be. We don't become “free” when we rebel against God—we just become ruled by whatever we are trusting the most. Something or someone that does not love us like Jesus does.

This weekend, let this book from the Old Testament do its work: *create hunger*. Hunger for a better King. Hunger for a Savior who doesn't come and go. Hunger for Jesus.

Act: Write a short "focus inventory." What things have been ruling your attention lately (worry, money, approval, comfort, anger)? Then write: "Jesus, You are King over my _____."

Pray: King Jesus, I want my life ordered around You. Forgive my wandering attention. Teach me to follow You with focus. Amen.