



# AWAKEN HOUSTON

## HUNGRY FOR GOD 2023: PRAYER & FASTING SERMON SERIES

### WEEK 1: JONAH 3 – REPENT

*God mercifully responds when we honestly, humbly, hungrily repent.*

God displays mercy – withholding his judgement which these violent and sinful pagans certainly deserved.

The Ninevites prayed honestly – they believed God. This was not empty piety or purely a religious undertaking, it was convictional.

The Ninevites prayed humbly – they admitted their evil and violence to God.

The Ninevites prayed hungrily – the fasting was total and communal. Their honest and humble plea was supercharged by their hunger. They all felt it in their bodies and cried out with a single voice.

Who knows, perhaps God will turn and relent?!

### WEEK 2: JOEL 2 – RETURN

*God graciously restores when a whole community wholeheartedly returns to Him.*

This is not merely a relenting from evil but a returning to the very heart of God.

The call is for EVERYONE to participate – congregation, elders, children, infants, bridegroom, bride, priests ministers

The call is for everyone to participate with their whole heart – all your heart, rend your heart not your garments

God hears and responds, restoring the years that the Locust devoured delighting and blessing the covenant people

Who knows perhaps God will turn and relent and leave a blessing?!

### WEEK 3: ESTHER 4 – RELINQUISH

*God powerfully rescues others when we courageously relinquish our lives to Him.*

Esther has a prominent position – lots to be stewarded before God for the good of others. Her decision to not cling to these things but relinquish them, to relinquish her very life

paves the way for the deliverance of many.

Who knows whether you have not come for such a time as this?

### WEEK 4: EZRA 8 – REQUEST

*God appropriately receives glory when we confidently request specific things of Him.*

Ezra was concerned about God's reputation since he had told the King that "the hand of our God is for good on all who seek him"

Ezra calls together the community that will be traveling back to rebuild Jerusalem and declares a fast specifically focused on their journey. This is a journey of faith

God listened to our entreaty and delivered us from the hand of our enemy – we secure glory for God when we step out in faith and are carried along by prayers specifically offered and specifically answered.

### WEEK 5: ACTS 13 – RELEASE

*God unexpectedly revives the church when we willingly release our best to Him.*

The mission of the church explodes out from this moment – the sending of the first missionary church planters and launching of the first church planting movement.

This moment was unexpected – not the obvious strategy for Antioch but unlocked amidst worship, fasting, and prayer

This moment required willing release – this church sends its teaching and lead pastors in the same moment because they have ears attuned to the Holy Spirit of God and hearts focused on the mission of God.

This moment leads to Revival – Antioch becomes the N.T. sending church and continues for several hundred years into church history. They lived with hands that were opened by communal fasting and prayer and as a result facilitated the great gospel movement of the first 3 hundred years of church history.

[DOWNLOAD FREE SERMON SERIES ART 1/ART 2](#)