

UNSHAKABLE



CHURCH-WIDE FAST

 **PETRA CHURCH**

Seven-Day Fast Prayer Focus

Church-Wide Fasting and Prayer

January 14-20, 2019

Petra Church

Theme:

Unshakable

Fasting Week Events

School of Prayer

“Encountering God Through Prayer” - Kara Sensenig

Tuesday, January 15 - Oasis, 7 PM

Night of Worship

Friday, January 18 - Sanctuary, 7 PM

Prayer Service

Saturday, January 19 - Sanctuary, 8:30 PM

Morning Communion Service

Sunday, January 20 - Sanctuary, 9 and 11 AM

Petra Family,

We welcome you to this week of fasting as we seek the face of God in a united way as a church.

The reason we fast is to draw close to God with a posture of surrender and a heart to listen. We fast to return to our first-love passion toward God. We repent of our sins and ask for more of God's grace in our lives. We fast to see breakthrough in our lives and the lives of others.

We have put together this devotional and prayer guide to help us focus our prayers in a united way before the throne of God.

Our theme for 2019 is **Unshakable**. We live in a world where everything is shaking, creating great uncertainty and fear, with raging wild fires, massive flooding, severe drought, tornados, hurricanes, earthquakes, drug epidemics, human trafficking, perversions, new diseases, a divided nation, nuclear threats, and wars.

While the world is shaking, we believers have a firm foundation to stand on. Jesus is our solid rock. He is our refuge and strength. In him we can live our lives with unshakable confidence.

But we thank God for giving us the victory as conquerors through our Lord Jesus, the Anointed One. So now, beloved ones, stand firm and secure. Live your lives with an unshakable confidence. I Corinthians 15:57-58 (TPT)

As we fast, let's ask God to make us unshakable no matter what we are dealing with now or throughout this year. Our faith is in him who is able to keep us.

There are various ways in which we can fast, and God honors them all when they come from a sincere heart. Some of us do a partial fast of skipping certain meals or certain foods for a period of time. Some fast from all foods. Some who are not able to fast from food choose to fast from the media or things that would represent a sacrifice in some way. Children can participate on a level that is appropriate for a child as we explain fasting to them and invite them to be a part of it.

I trust this seven-day fasting devotional guide will be a blessing to you as we fast and focus our prayers together toward God.

May God hear our prayers and see our expressions of humility in seeking his face, and turn his face toward us with favor and grace.

Pastors Lester and Erma
Senior Pastors

Hello Families!

I know fasting can seem like a big unknown. And I know it can sound like something only adults do. But when kids participate in fasting, it begins to give them the tools they need to practice self-discipline and to put God first. Kids like their desserts, their TV shows, and their video games. By actively choosing to fast in one of these areas, they learn that yes, they do have the ability to make smart choices.

Take time to discuss the fast with your children. Talk about what it means to fast and then let them decide what they might be willing to go without for the week. Encourage them to ask Jesus what he wants them to give up. This makes it more personal for them, not just another thing mom or dad is telling them to do. You can even choose something as a family. This is beneficial especially for younger children.

In this booklet we have included age-appropriate devotions and activities to walk through during the week. This will help them engage in what they are doing. Our activity this year involves a tree. We will discuss that trees can withstand the biggest of storms if they have a strong root system, making them **Unshakable**. You can pick up everything you need in the Kids' Hub.

I pray that as you go through these devotions and activities together, your family will experience the love and faithfulness of God in a new way.

Andrea Kauffman

Children's Ministry Leader

DAY 1

Our Unshakable God

“Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe.” Hebrews 12:28

If we have life, breath, and a roof over our head, we have much to be thankful for . . . and yet, life can be hard.

Things come in and out of our lives, like the crashing of waves upon the shore, that can rattle us and shift us off course. Many times life’s circumstances—be it a loss of job, a broken relationship, a terminal illness, anxiety, a financial hardship, the loss of a loved one, a sudden tragedy, and the list goes on . . . these events can shake us, our families, our friends. Sometimes it can even break us.

You don’t have to read many headlines to realize we live in a shakable world, full of upheaval. Not one of us is exempt from the potential challenges, difficulties, and trials of life.

And yet: “We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain, where our forerunner, Jesus, has entered on our behalf. He has become a high priest forever.” Hebrews 6:19-20

He is not shaken; he is the Rock. He is the peace in the midst of our storm, unmoved by the intensity of the howling winds, crashing waves, and our sinking ship. He remains steady, unmoved, and constant.

He knows the beginning and the end and all that’s in between. He is not surprised by the shaking in our lives or the upheaval in our world. His compassion, loving kindness, and grace draw near. He has a plan and a destiny.

He leads us; he never leaves or forsakes us. He’s a good shepherd, and we can trust his leadership. He walks with us through the hard and devastating times—he never turns his back on us. His nature is unchanging; he is faithful in all he does. He is always good.

He reigns supreme over all things in heaven and earth. The storms may come, darkness may close in, and our questions may be left unanswered. And yet, his kingdom is everlasting and will not pass away. All authority, glory, and power have been given to him.

As believers in Jesus, we’ve been called sons and daughters. As his kids, he has invited us to enter into the fullness of our inheritance in him. We’ve been invited to participate in the reality of his unshakable kingdom!

It is imperative, in the times we live, that we clothe ourselves with this reality and the truth of his Word so we are anchored in him, standing firm and unshakable in this shakable world.

Prayer of Declaration

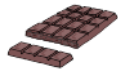
Father, as we begin this year, we declare that you are unshakable, that you are always good, that you reign over all things, that you are faithful in all you do, and that you stand firm forever. Lord, we ask that you would anchor us in the truth; plant our feet firmly upon your Word so we may enter into the fullness of our inheritance available in you. So that together we may stand firm, unshakable, and stand as a beacon of light and truth to those around us. Amen

Kristina Flewelling

DAY 1 Children's Devotion God is Unshakable

When we fast, it is important to start by focusing on God. It can be easy to focus on ourselves: our wants, our needs, our problems. But when we turn our eyes to God and focus on who he is, the small things in our life can start to disappear. Our theme this week is **Unshakable**. God is unshakable because of his character. Character is how we would describe someone. Are they patient, kind, loving, honest, trustworthy? Talk with your family today about the different ways that God shows us he is unshakable because of his character.

Below are some pictures of things that you can fast from. Please circle one that you will fast this week. If your item isn't here, feel free to draw it in the space.



Let's thank God for this special week of growing closer to him. Ask him to help you fast this week, especially during the times when you miss the thing you have chosen to fast from. Ask him to help you stick to it. As you pray, you can even picture in your mind laying down the thing you've chosen to fast from in front of Jesus as a present to him.

DAY 2
Who I Am Because of His Spirit Within Me—Unshakable

Whoever is united with the Lord is one with him in spirit. 1 Corinthians 6:17

Who you are matters because God says so. In your life you will be called many things, some honorable and some not so much. Some people will think you're great and others will see you through the lens of a mistake or failure that you've made.

But who does God say you are? How we answer this question carries implications that affect every aspect of our lives. When Jesus went to the cross he didn't say "Well, I think this is worth it." He saw you! You are his great reward, his inheritance. He died so that you could live, truly live! No longer bound by sin and darkness, your value is no longer open to interpretation but cemented in the eternal heart of God.

Your right to define yourself is taken, overruled by the highest authority in the universe, from the blood pouring down Jesus' face from his crown of thorns; the markings on his back from the countless lashes of a whip; and the nails piercing his hands and legs. He says, "It is finished!" You are who I say you are!

But it doesn't stop there. Jesus gave himself so extravagantly that he gave his very Spirit to dwell inside you. This changes everything. The very power that raised Christ from the dead lives in you. You have everything you need to rise above the powers of this dark age and to shine forth in the light of Christ. You are unshakable!

Prayer of Declaration

Jesus, I honor your Holy Spirit. I submit myself to your leadership and your ways. I thank you that I lack nothing in you. There is no mountain that doesn't bow before you, no stronghold that has overcome you. I'm found in you and defined by you. Your victory has become my victory. Where there is darkness you are light; where there is death you are life; and where there is oppression you are freedom. Holy Spirit, I was created for this hour. Fill me afresh and pour out your Spirit so that the world would taste and see that you are good. Amen

Jonathan Martin

DAY 2
Children's Devotion
I Am God's Child

Sometimes it's easy to get caught up in the things we do. We let those things define who we are. But what we need to remember is that the sports we play or how well we do in school do not make us who we are. All those things can change (and usually do) as we grow up and find new interests or learn new things. The only thing that is forever true is that we are children of

God! Created by him to be his friend! No matter what happens in life, we can be unshakable because we can stand on this truth. Remind yourself today that you are God's child, and nothing will ever change that!

Read **Psalm 139:13-18** to be reminded of how much God loves each of his children. Then, color your tree. It can look any way you want it to look to remind you that we are all created differently and loved by the Father! Pray and ask God to continue to show you how special you are to him.

DAY 3

Empowered By His Spirit to Stand Unshakable

The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock in whom I take refuge. He is my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. Psalm 18:2

Only one person I know is unshakable. As much as I try to be in control of my life, sometimes circumstances can shake me to the core. Years ago, as my relationship grew with Jesus Christ, I began to see him spoken of in many places in the Bible as the Rock. The descriptions of this Rock as the mighty "Right Arm" of God, the "Anchor" in any storm, the "Rock" of our salvation began to be a very real description of Jesus in my heart. I chose to believe this.

In the same way that a friendship grows by shared moments of listening and loving, our faith grows strong when we cultivate a relationship with God. It starts by believing that God loves you and wants to be involved in your life. Then, as you understand he *wants* to have a relationship with you, faith grows. You are so valuable to him that he would die for your friendship. Spending time in prayer, in his Word, and in sharing our experiences with others, our view of him changes. We see evidence of him at work, "God sightings," if you will. The Rock we lean on gets bigger, more dependable.

Then, when the winds of unexpected and difficult circumstances blow hard and you think you can hardly hold on any longer, this Rock becomes unshakable. Perhaps you got the email that they're downsizing at work, or you found "the lump," or someone you love wrecked your trust . . . you know the blindsides that pull the rug right out from under you. One minute you are standing. The next, you are awash in circumstances beyond your control. His Spirit reminds you that he promised to never abandon you or cast you off. Everything else may be shaking, but on this Rock, you can stand. He is with you. He is your strength, holding you, comforting you, guiding you. He is the unshakable rock that never moves. We can stand by his Spirit because he is unshakable.

Prayer of Declaration

God, I believe that you love me, that you will never abandon me. I believe that your Spirit will give me strength to stand.

Steph Flewelling

DAY 3 Children's Devotion Strong in the Spirit

In the book of Zechariah, we read about Zerubbabel (try saying that five times fast!), who was going to rebuild the temple in Jerusalem. There were enemies of God that wanted the temple to stay destroyed but God had other plans. Do you think one man could do all of that in his own strength? No way! That was a big job, and one that required the strength and power of the Holy Spirit. Chapter 4, verse 6 says: *"Then he said to me, 'this is what the Lord says to Zerubbabel: It is not by force nor by strength, but by **My Spirit**, says the Lord of Heaven's Armies.'"* (NLT) And verse 7 tells us that not even a mighty mountain will stand in his way! That is a lot of power. When you have something big in front of you, something that seems impossible, remember that all you need to do is ask the Holy Spirit for help.

Take some time to think about areas in your life that you might need help in. What are two things that feel too big for you to do on your own? Write those things on your leaves and attach them to your tree. Then pray and ask God for the same strength from the Holy Spirit to face your challenges.

DAY 4 Unshakeable Through the Seasons

"It is he who changes the times and the epochs; he removes kings and establishes kings; he gives wisdom to wise men and knowledge to men of understanding." **Daniel 2:21 (NASB)**

"He said to them, 'It is not for you to know times or epochs.'" **Acts 1:7 (NASB)**

We've all found ourselves smack in the middle of a season where, if we were to only view our surroundings, it may be difficult to see anything else. Perhaps you're in the trenches of motherhood with a baby on one hip and a couple of needy toddlers clamoring for your attention while you're trying to make dinner, and your brain feels like it could melt. Perhaps life is slower now as you're an empty nester, and at times the silence seems a little too loud and the company seems a little too scarce. Maybe you're in a season of abundance full of those mountain-top experiences, and you're secretly hoping this season continues forever. On the contrary, you may be contending for breakthrough as the gates of hell *seem* to be prevailing in your circumstances.

Beloved, no matter how you feel or how your circumstances may seem, remember this: God is the God of seasons. We may not understand his ways or his timing (Isaiah 55:8-9), but his ways are perfect. When we don't grasp his purposes, we can rely on his character and his promises. The parts of your season that don't seem good *will* be flipped for your good (Romans 8:28). Press in. Wait patiently. Trust him. He's a good Father (Psalm 119:68).

Prayer of Declaration

God, you are the God of the ages. You are in my past, in my present, and in my future. You go before me, and you come behind me at just the right time. You order my steps. I trust in you at all times. You are my Rock and Defender—a present help in times of trouble. I am rooted in you like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither, and in all that it does, it prospers (Psalm 1:3).

Jennifer Haak

Day 4 **Children's Devotion** **Strong In All Seasons**

Spring, Summer, Winter, and Autumn . . . those are the seasons in each year. We all have a favorite season and we all have a season we are usually happy to say goodbye to. In life, different things we experience can also be looked at as seasons. Maybe we are super happy because we got picked for a sports team we tried out for. Or because we get to be in the upcoming dance recital. That can feel like summer, or a happy season. But sometimes life can seem like it's just hard, and bad things keep happening: bad grades on a test, a fight with a friend, or trouble at home. That can feel like a hard season, maybe like winter. And then suddenly life can start to change here and there. Maybe you make a new friend or join a new club. That can feel like spring, like the beginning of something new. Ecclesiastes 3: 1-8 promises us that life will have seasons, and not all of them will be good. But it also promises that God has made everything beautiful in its own time. Isn't that great news?!

Cut out your snowflake stickers and put them all around the tree to represent winter. As you decorate your tree, ask God to help you to stay close to him during good times and bad. Ask for help in trusting him in every season of life.

Day 5 **Unshakeable Through the Storms**

He stilled the storm to a whisper; the waves of the sea were hushed. Psalm 107:29

Jesus got up and rebuked the wind and the raging waters; the storm subsided and all was calm. Luke 8:24

The verses above are talking about the storms on the sea. I would like to use the verses to talk about storms in our lives on this earth. Most people do not like storms because they are difficult, damaging, and devastating at times. But because we are children of the Redeemer God, we have hope in the midst of a storm. The evil one lies to us and tells us there is no purpose to the storm, no hope of its ending. But the Truth is that our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ never misses an opportunity to transform us into his likeness with ever increasing glory (2 Corinthians 3:18). This miracle is at work in our lives as we submit our hearts to Jesus.

I believe it is through the storms in my life that I see God's transforming process working in high gear, stripping me of the things that hinder my love for Christ and those people he puts into my everyday life. Each storm has a track that focuses on refining me, but often I miss the beauty of what is happening in me because I am focused on the lies of satan instead of the truth of God.

The storm that I am currently dealing with is in its seventh year. Even though God has commanded me not to be discouraged, the Holy Spirit revealed to me through Joshua 1:9 how discouraged I am. Therefore, I am reading a book by Francis Frangipane entitled *The Three Battlegrounds*. I share this truth with you: "Victory begins with the Name of Jesus on our lips. It is consummated by the nature of Jesus in our heart."

James 1:2-3 says, "Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance." Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

As I persevere through this storm, I have two choices: Either I believe the lies satan puts in my thoughts or I believe the Truth that God speaks to me through his Word.

Prayer of Declaration

I declare I will believe the Truth of God's Word. Jesus is consummating his nature in my heart!

Kathy Smucker

Day 5 Children's Devotion Strong In The Storms

Have you ever seen video or pictures of a hurricane? The wind blows so hard that trees can bend over. Some of them even blow over completely. But what about the trees that stay standing? How do they stand strong in those mighty winds? Trees use their roots to get their food and water from the ground. When a tree digs its roots deep into the earth, they get strong and have a lot to hold on to during stormy weather. If its roots don't go deep, that tree could blow over. When we dig our roots in to Jesus, it helps us to stand strong, too. By reading our

Bibles, praying, and going to church, our roots become strong in Jesus. Then, when something bad come along, our roots hold us strong and safe.

Read the verse below. Circle some things in the verse that sound unshakable.

I love you, Lord; you are my strength. The Lord is my rock, my fortress, and my savior; my God is my rock, in whom I find protection. He is my shield, the power that saves me, and my place of safety.” **Psalm 18:1-2 (NLT)**

Rocks and fortresses are definitely unshakable! God promises us that we will always have a strong, safe place to go when life gets hard. I’m so thankful for that promise!

Draw roots for your tree. Label your roots with different ways to keep them strong in Jesus. As you draw, thank God for being our rock and our fortress. Then ask him to continue to make your roots strong.

DAY 6

Unshakeable Through the Generations

How great are his signs! And how mighty are his wonders! His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and his dominion endures throughout the generations. **Daniel 3:33 (Tenach, Hebrew Bible)**

My teenage granddaughter is intrigued with our genealogy. She is creating a family tree with information about our ancestors, how they were persecuted for their faith, and how they came to America seeking freedom to worship God and provide a good heritage for their children.

We spent a day recently exploring old graveyards, tracing our family history. In the middle of a field, in a dirt lane of the Weaverland valley, we found a small plot where our ancestors are buried. In that peaceful setting, it was fun imagining what life was like back in the 1700s.

Their faith in God is still bearing fruit in the lives of this generation. The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; surely I have a delightful inheritance. **Psalm 16:6 (NIV)**

One generation shall praise your works to another, and shall declare your mighty and remarkable acts. **Psalm 145:4 (AMP)**

What a privilege we have to share God’s faithfulness with our children. *Tell your children about it, and let your children tell theirs, and their children the next generation.* **Joel 1:3 (Tenach)**

Even if we do not have a godly heritage, we can choose to pray and speak the truth of God’s Word to our generation. We have the power of Christ within us to bring a shift toward righteousness in our family. *Such is the generation of those who seek him, who seek your face, God of Jacob.* **Psalm 24:6 (NIV)**

In February, 2018 Pastor Brian Flewelling gave a prophetic call to take the gospel to the nations and give ourselves increasingly to prayer and intercession. The prophetic word was: “Give me your sons and daughters. I’m going to send them to the nations.”

Ask of me and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession.

Psalm 2:8 (NIV) What a genealogy line that will be!

Prayer of Declaration

Lord, give us unshakable faith in your promises. May this generation be the one to inherit the nations.

Ruth Ann Hollinger

Day 6

Children’s Devotion

Strong From Beginning To End

Life is full of change. Most change we don’t even really notice—we move to a new classroom at church, or our parents get a different car. Change can be easy, but there are big changes that can be hard. Maybe you’ve had to move to a new neighborhood or to a different town. Which means you’ve had to make new friends. Big changes can leave us feeling unsettled and unsure. That is why I love this verse below:

“I am the Alpha and Omega—the beginning and the end,” says the Lord God. “I am the one who is, who always was, and who is still to come—the Almighty One.” **Revelation 1:8 (NLT)**

God never changes! He is exactly the same now as he was when he created the earth. And he will be the same forever. He is the same God who spoke to Moses and Noah. And he will be the same when you grow up and have kids and grandkids of your own. We never, ever have to worry that God is going to change any part of who he is. Life may change, but he doesn’t. Talk about unshakable! Take some time to pray and thank God that he is the beginning and the end, that he will never change. We can stand on that promise.

Color the owl and baby birds from your sticker paper and place them in your tree. Let these birds be a reminder that God doesn’t change, no matter what the future may hold.

Day 7

Unshakeable Throughout the Nations

“You also will command nations you do not know, and peoples unknown to you will come running to obey, because I, the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, have made you glorious.”
Isaiah 55:5 (NLT)

Am I called? Do I have what it takes? What does it mean to go to the nations? How do I even share the gospel with my neighbor next door?

So many questions come to mind when we think about taking the Word to others. For some people this topic is out of the question. Many think that “missions” work is for the most qualified or for church leaders only. **Matthew 28:19-20** says this call is for YOU. You have been given a command from God and entrusted with a responsibility to carry his love to those who have yet to hear. Wherever you go, he has called you to reach those around you for his Kingdom and his glory. The heart of God is that every tongue, every tribe, and every nation would cry out in worship to him (Rev. 7:9-10).

Some of us are called to go to the furthest corners of the world; others to be senders of those going to the nations. Sometimes going to the nations means being a light to those in your school, workplace, or family. No matter the serving capacity, he says you are his messenger (2 Cor. 5:20-21).

As you start your day today, take courage. Ask God how you can be his voice to those around you. Remember he is with you. Walking in God’s power and the Holy Spirit’s guidance, you will be unshakable. He is faithful, even in the deepest valleys.

Because of who he is in us, we are unshakable.

Prayer of Declaration

Lord, open my eyes to where you are moving. Lead me in your love to those around me. Today I pray for your great Name to be known in every nation of the earth. Open my heart to what my part is in reaching the lost. May I remain unshakable in the faith of who you are and how you have empowered and gifted me to expand your Kingdom. Amen.

Lazaro “Nacho” Barrera

Day 7 Children’s Devotion Strong In The Nations

Do you have a world map or a globe in your house? If you do, look at one with your family. If not, try to find one on the computer or in a book. Imagine that map covered with the people of the world. There are millions of people out there! Most of those people speak different languages, eat different types of food, and dress differently. They may have different holidays and different traditions. But what is one thing they all have in common? Do you know?

They were all created by a loving Father God to be known by him. It’s hard to imagine, but he loves each and every person on earth exactly the same. No matter what our skin color or what language we speak, we are all children of God. And his heart is sad because there are many

people who don't know this! They don't know about the love of Jesus that is waiting for them! God wants to be unshakable in their lives too.

Can you choose a spot on the map? Write down the name of that country somewhere on your tree. Then pray together that the people in that country will learn about Jesus and learn to know him.

Petra Missionaries 2019

Long-Term and Associate Missionaries:

- Mario and Jeanette Araya
- Lazaro "Nacho" and Merrilee Barrera and Family
- Andrea Beiler
- Devan Colby
- JC and Lois Ebersole
- Marta Estrada
- Deanna Good
- Bruce and Joyce Heckman
- Darryl and Joyce Henson
- Daniel and Jamie Jones and Family
- Arlen and Keturah King and Family
- Joe and Jeniece Kingman and Family
- Randy and Bonnie Martin
- Tina Moore
- Ben and Kayte Musselman and Family
- Brad and Lori Ortenzi
- Trevor and Leah
- Barbara Stoltzfus
- Kenny and Steph Stoner and Family
- Alan and Carol Wert and Family
- Leslie and Suzanne Yoder
- Chris and April Zimmerman

Short-Term Missions

- Sarah Eby
- Nicole Hurst

Praying for Salvation

If you're believing for the salvation of a family member or friend:

Father, I bring _____ before you now, asking that as I pray, the Holy Spirit would draw them to Jesus.

I Pray:

1. That God would lift the veil that prevents _____ from seeing truth.
2. For the Holy Spirit to bring conviction and protect him/her.
3. For godly people to be placed in his/her pathway each day, especially ones who speak truth and life.
4. I cast down anything that would exalt itself against the knowledge of God, specifically: pride, rebellion . . . (anything you can think of).
5. In the Name of Jesus, I take down all known strongholds, thought patterns, opinions on religion, etc.
6. I bind Satan from taking _____ captive any longer, and bind all wicked thoughts and lies Satan would try to place in his/her mind.
7. In Jesus' name, I place the armor of God on him/her.

* Don't forget to pray in the Spirit, releasing his power and life.

Salvation Prayer

Lord Jesus, I need you. Thank you for dying on the cross for my sins. By faith, I open the door of my life and my heart to receive you as my Savior and my Lord. Please forgive me of my sins. Thank you for your grace and for giving me eternal life. Take control of the decisions of my life. Make me the kind of person you want me to be. Amen.