# The Anchored AD:

# Weekly Devotional for Athletic Administrators



"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."

— Galatians 6:9 (NIV)



#### A Note from Travis Smith

When I first began studying the athletic director position, it was out of a deep curiosity for leadership in higher education and a respect for those entrusted with shaping entire athletic departments. Over time, that curiosity grew into a passion — not just for the structure and strategy of the AD role, but for the people who carry its weight.

As I spent more time interviewing, researching, and walking alongside athletic administrators, I realized something else: many ADs are under immense pressure. Pressure to win. To manage budgets. To navigate crises. To represent their institutions with strength and stability. It's a demanding job — and one that often leaves little space for rest, reflection, or spiritual encouragement.

That realization sparked a question in me: What if I could combine my passion for studying the athletic director position with my calling to share the hope of the gospel?

This devotional is my answer. Let me be clear – I did not write this from beginning to end. Instead, I continuously prompted an AI tool with the challenges that athletic directors face. I then customized it to be seasonal with the role you have and the challenges you are likely facing that month. I then did continuous edits and changed out discussion questions or scriptures. The devotional is specifically for those in the seat — or on the path toward it. I believe that the Word of God has the power to center and sustain us, no matter how high the stakes or how heavy the leadership burden becomes. I've experienced that in my own life as a follower of Christ, a husband, a father, and someone who has worked in and around higher education.

I don't claim to have all the answers. But I do know this: God cares deeply about the work you're doing. He sees you. And He invites you to abide in Him — not just on Sundays, but in every meeting, decision, and challenge you face.

Whether you're leading an athletic department or just aspiring to lead one, I hope these weekly reflections help keep you grounded in Scripture, connected to your purpose, and encouraged to lead with faith, humility, and courage. I encourage you to read and share these devotionals with colleagues around the country and create small check-in groups to talk about the prompted questions as you navigate the world.

**Travis Smith** 



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#### Week 1 – *Peace in the Midst of Pressure*

Weekly Focus Verse:

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." – Philippians 4:6–7 (ESV)

#### Reflection

August is a whirlwind: finalizing schedules, last-minute roster changes, media questions, and the rising energy of competition. It's easy to feel anxiety creeping in as you juggle the demands from coaches, athletes, administration, and fans.

Paul's words to the Philippians offer a balm for this pressure: *Do not be anxious*. Not because the problems disappear, but because God offers a peace that transcends circumstances.

This peace isn't a vague feeling. It's a powerful guard around your heart and mind—protecting you from fear and worry. It comes through prayer and thanksgiving, not ignoring challenges but handing them over to God.

This week, lean into prayer, bring your concerns honestly before God, and thank Him for what He's already done. Let His peace shape your responses, your leadership, and your rest.

#### Daily Scripture Readings

Day	Scripture	Focus
Mon	Philippians 4:6–7	God's peace guards hearts
Tue	1 Peter 5:7	Cast your anxieties on Him
Wed	Psalm 55:22	God sustains those who cast burdens
Thu	Matthew 11:28–30	Rest for the weary
Fri	Isaiah 26:3	Perfect peace for trusting hearts
Sat	John 14:27	Peace I leave with you
Sun	Psalm 34:4	Deliverance from fear

# **A** Prayer

Father, the weight of this season can feel overwhelming. I confess my anxiety and fears. Help me to bring everything—big and small—to You in prayer. Thank You for Your peace that guards my heart and mind. Teach me to rest in You amid the storm. In Jesus' name, amen.



# Week 1 – *Peace in the Midst of Pressure*

- 1. What does it mean to you to "be still and know that He is God" in the context of your leadership?
- 2. How can practicing stillness help you handle the demands of your role more effectively?
- 3. What are some practical ways you can carve out quiet time with God amid a busy schedule?
- 4. How does recognizing God's sovereignty impact your daily decisions?
- 5. Who can you encourage this week to seek God's peace through stillness and trust?



#### Week 2 – *Faith Over Fear*

Weekly Focus Verse:

"When I am afraid, I put my trust in you." – Psalm 56:3 (ESV)

#### Reflection

As the busy season approaches, fear and worry can creep in—fear of failure, fear of letting people down, fear of what-ifs. Yet, David's honest declaration in Psalm 56 reminds us there is a powerful alternative: trust.

Faith doesn't mean the absence of fear. It means choosing to trust God despite it. This week, let your fears drive you closer to the One who holds your future, not farther away.

In moments of overwhelm, pause and remind yourself: God is with you. He is for you. He has not given you a spirit of fear but of power, love, and self-control (2 Timothy 1:7).

Lean into that truth today.

#### Daily Scripture Readings

Day	Scripture	Focus
Mon	Psalm 56:3	Trusting God when afraid
Tue	2 Timothy 1:7	Spirit of power, love, and self-control
Wed	Isaiah 41:10	Fear not, God is with you
Thu	Psalm 27:1	The Lord is your light and salvation
Fri	Romans 8:38-39	Nothing can separate us from God's love
Sat	Hebrews 13:6	The Lord is my helper; I will not fear
Sun	John 14:27	Peace not as the world gives

# **A** Prayer

Lord, fear tries to grip my heart this week, but I choose to trust You instead. Remind me that You are greater than my worries and stronger than my doubts. Fill me with Your power, love, and self-control so I can lead with courage. In Jesus' name, amen.



#### Week 2 – Faith Over Fear

- 1. How does embracing God's strength help you face challenges in your leadership?
- 2. When have you felt particularly weak, and how did God's power sustain you?
- 3. What areas in your role require you to rely more fully on God's strength?
- 4. How can you encourage your team to depend on God during difficult times?
- 5. How does knowing God's strength is made perfect in weakness change your perspective on leadership?



#### Week 3 – *Strength for the Journey*

Weekly Focus Verse:

"But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint." – Isaiah 40:31 (NIV)

#### Reflection

The summer sprint is often the toughest part of the year—final preparations, tough decisions, and constant pressure.

Isaiah offers a promise that feels like a lifeline: *hope in the Lord renews strength*. This renewal isn't just physical—it's spiritual, emotional, and mental.

When you feel worn thin, this verse invites you to pause and place your hope firmly on God. He is the source of endurance when your energy wanes, clarity when confusion clouds your mind, and peace when anxiety threatens to overwhelm.

You can't run this race alone. Lean into His strength daily, and you'll find yourself renewed and ready to soar.

#### Daily Scripture Readings

Day	Scripture	Focus
Mon	Isaiah 40:31	Renewed strength through hope in God
Tue	Psalm 46:1	God is our refuge and strength
Wed	Nehemiah 8:10	Strength comes from the Lord
Thu	Philippians 4:13	I can do all things through Christ
Fri	2 Corinthians 12:9	God's grace is sufficient
Sat	Psalm 29:11	The Lord gives strength to His people
Sun	Ephesians 6:10	Be strong in the Lord and His mighty power

# A Prayer Prompt

Lord, this season is demanding and my strength feels limited. Help me place my hope fully in You and receive Your renewing power. Remind me that Your grace is sufficient, and Your strength is made perfect in weakness. I trust You to sustain me. In Jesus' name, amen.



# Week 3 – *Strength for the Journey*

- 1. How do you define faithfulness in your leadership role?
- 2. What motivates you to keep serving faithfully even when the work is hard or discouraging?
- 3. Are there areas where you feel your faithfulness is being tested? How can you seek God's help?
- 4. How can you inspire faithfulness in your staff and student-athletes?
- 5. What promises from Scripture encourage you to remain faithful?



#### Week 4 – *Persevere with Hope*

Weekly Focus Verse:

"Let us not grow weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." – Galatians 6:9 (ESV)

#### Reflection

As fall officially begins, the long hours, the tough conversations, and the weighty decisions will ramp up significantly. It's easy to feel exhausted before the season is even fully underway.

Paul encourages us not to grow weary in doing good, but to persevere with hope. That hope isn't wishful thinking—it's a confident expectation grounded in God's faithfulness.

Remember that every hard choice, every late-night meeting, and every challenge faced is part of a bigger story God is writing. Your faithful leadership is not in vain.

When weariness threatens to overwhelm, lean into God's promise of a harvest. Keep your eyes on the eternal rewards and the lives touched beyond the scoreboard.

#### Daily Scripture Readings

Day	Scripture	Focus
Mon	Galatians 6:9	Perseverance in doing good
Tue	Hebrews 12:1–3	Running with endurance
Wed	Isaiah 40:29–31	Strength for the weary
Thu	James 1:12	Blessing for those who persevere
Fri	<i>Romans 5:3–5</i>	Suffering produces hope
Sat	2 Corinthians 4:16–18	Renewed inner strength
Sun	Psalm 33:20	Our hope is in the Lord

# **A** Prayer

Father, this season will be hard, and I know I will face weariness. Help me persevere with hope and trust that You are working through every moment. Renew my strength when I feel weak, and remind me that my labor is not in vain. May my leadership glorify You. In Jesus' name, amen.



# Week 4 – *Persevere with Hope*

- 1. What fears or anxieties do you currently face in your leadership role?
- 2. How can trusting in God's promises help you overcome those fears?
- 3. When have you experienced God's peace in the midst of uncertainty?
- 4. What practical steps can you take this week to cast your anxieties on God?
- 5. How can your trust in God's faithfulness inspire those you lead?



#### Week 5 – *Keeping God at the Center*

Weekly Focus Verse:

"Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."

- Matthew 6:33 (ESV)

#### Reflection

September marks the full-throttle start of the academic year and the excitement of football season. The pressure to deliver results, manage teams, and respond to countless demands can easily shift your focus toward deadlines and outcomes.

Jesus reminds us in Matthew 6 to *seek first the kingdom of God*. This means centering your priorities on God's purposes, not just the season's demands.

When God is at the center, everything else falls into proper perspective. Wins and losses become secondary to faithfulness. Stress gives way to peace. Busyness is balanced by purpose.

This week, intentionally recalibrate your heart. Let God's kingdom—not just your to-do list—define your leadership.

#### Daily Scripture Readings

Day	Scripture	Focus
Mon	Matthew 6:33	Seek God's kingdom first
Tue	Psalm 46:10	Be still and know God
Wed	Colossians 3:23–24	Work for the Lord, not for men
Thu	Isaiah 26:3	Perfect peace in trusting God
Fri	Philippians 4:13	Strength through Christ
Sat	Hebrews 12:2	Fix your eyes on Jesus
Sun	Romans 12:2	Transform by renewing your mind

# **A** Prayer

Lord, this season is busy and full of pressure. Help me seek Your kingdom first in all I do. Keep my heart focused on You so that I lead with purpose, peace, and faithfulness. Let everything flow from You, not from my own strength. In Jesus' name, amen.



# Week 5 – *Keeping God at the Center*

- 1. How does starting a new season impact your heart and mind as a leader?
- 2. What are your hopes and fears for this football season?
- 3. How can you intentionally invite God into the plans and challenges ahead?
- 4. What spiritual practices help you stay grounded during busy seasons?
- 5. How can you encourage your team to seek God's guidance throughout this season?



#### Week 6 – *Strength in Weakness*

Weekly Focus Verse:

"But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me." – 2 Corinthians 12:9 (ESV)

#### Reflection

In the heart of a demanding season, it's tempting to lean on your own strength and experience. The pressures to perform, make decisions, and carry others can feel overwhelming.

Yet Paul reminds us that God's grace is *sufficient*—and His power is made perfect not in our strength, but in our weakness.

Admitting weakness isn't failure. It's faith. It opens the door for God's power to work through you in ways that exceed human ability.

This week, embrace your limitations as opportunities for God's strength. When you feel depleted, invite His grace to fill you and carry the burden alongside you.

#### Daily Scripture Readings

Day	Scripture	Focus
Mon 2	2 Corinthians 12:9 God's	power in weakness

**Tue** *Psalm 34:18* The Lord is close to the brokenhearted

**Wed** *Isaiah* 40:29 God gives strength to the weary **Thu** *Matthew* 11:28–30 Rest for the weary and burdened

Fri Philippians 4:13 Strength through Christ

Sat Psalm 73:26 God is the strength of my heart

**Sun** Hebrews 4:16 Approach the throne of grace with confidence



Lord, when I feel weak and overwhelmed, remind me that Your grace is enough. Help me to stop striving in my own strength and lean fully into Your power. Thank You for carrying me through the hard days. I trust You to be my strength. In Jesus' name, amen.



### Week 6 – Strength in Weakness

- 1. How do you balance the demands of your role with maintaining your spiritual health?
- 2. When do you most feel the pressure of expectations, and how can you bring those moments to God?
- 3. What habits or routines help you stay spiritually resilient during stressful times?
- 4. How can you model healthy balance for your staff and student-athletes?
- 5. Who in your life can you invite to support you in prayer or encouragement?



#### Week 7 – Seeking God's Wisdom

Weekly Focus Verse:

"If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him." – James 1:5 (ESV)

#### Reflection

Athletic directors face countless decisions daily—budgeting, staffing, conflict resolution, and strategic planning. The weight of these choices can feel heavy, especially when the stakes are high.

James encourages us to ask God for wisdom—a wisdom that is generous, without judgment, and always available.

Seeking God's wisdom means pausing amid the busyness to pray, reflect, and listen. It means prioritizing God's guidance over quick fixes or worldly pressure.

This week, lean into prayerful discernment. Trust that God will provide the insight and clarity you need to lead well.

#### Daily Scripture Readings

Day	Scripture	Focus
Mon	James 1:5	Ask God for wisdom
Tue	Proverbs 2:6	The Lord gives wisdom
Wed	Proverbs 3:5–6	Trust God's guidance
Thu	Psalm 37:23	The Lord directs the steps
Fri	Colossians 1:9	Pray for wisdom and knowledge
Sat	Ecclesiastes 7:12	Wisdom preserves life
Sun	1 Corinthians 2:16	The mind of Christ

# **A** Prayer

Father, the decisions I face are many and weighty. I ask You for wisdom—clear, generous, and timely. Help me listen for Your voice above the noise and choose according to Your will. Thank You for always guiding me. In Jesus' name, amen.



#### Week 7 – Seeking God's Wisdom

- 1. When have you experienced God's strength sustaining you in challenging moments?
- 2. How can you intentionally rely on God's power rather than your own in leadership decisions?
- 3. What are some areas of your work where you feel overwhelmed, and how can you invite God's help?
- 4. How does acknowledging your dependence on God affect your leadership style?
- 5. How can sharing your struggles with trusted colleagues or mentors encourage your spiritual growth?



#### Week 8 – *Patience in the Process*

Weekly Focus Verse:

"But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience." – Romans 8:25 (ESV)

#### Reflection

In the midst of a demanding fall, it's easy to grow impatient—wanting quick results, immediate solutions, and visible progress.

But the Christian life, and leadership in God's kingdom, is a process. Sometimes what we hope for is unseen and requires waiting.

Romans 8 encourages us to *wait with patience*—trusting that God is at work even when the outcome is not yet clear.

This week, focus on surrendering your timeline to God's perfect timing. Trust that He is growing your department, your team, and your leadership in ways you cannot yet see.

Patience is not passive; it's a confident waiting grounded in hope.

#### Daily Scripture Readings

Day	Scripture	Focus
Mon	Romans 8:25	Hopeful patience
Tue	Psalm 27:14	Wait for the Lord; be strong
Wed	I Isaiah 40:31	Renewed strength for the patient
Thu	Lamentations 3:25–26	The Lord is good to those who wait
Fri	James 5:7–8	Patience like a farmer waiting for crops
Sat	Ecclesiastes 3:1	There is a season for everything
Sun	Hebrews 6:12	Imitate those who through faith and patience inherit promises

# **A** Prayer

Lord, I want to rush and control, but You call me to wait with patience and hope. Help me trust Your timing and rest in Your faithfulness. Teach me to be strong and courageous as I wait for Your promises to unfold. In Jesus' name, amen.



#### Week 8 – *Patience in the Process*

- 1. What fears or anxieties are you carrying right now, and how can you bring them to God in prayer?
- 2. How does trusting in God's promises bring you peace amid uncertainty?
- 3. When have you felt God's peace in the midst of a stressful situation?
- 4. What practical steps can you take to deepen your trust in God during challenging times?
- 5. How can your faith in God's faithfulness inspire and comfort your team?



#### Week 9 – God's Faithfulness in Every Season

Weekly Focus Verse:

"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness." – Lamentations 3:22–23 (ESV)

#### Reflection

October often brings the busiest part of the season: intense competition, recruiting pressures, staff changes, and the grind of daily leadership.

In the middle of so much change and challenge, it's easy to lose sight of what never changes—God's faithfulness.

Lamentations reminds us that God's mercies are new every morning. No matter what yesterday held—frustrations, setbacks, or victories—today you wake to fresh grace.

This week, anchor yourself in the truth that God's love and faithfulness are unchanging. When you feel overwhelmed, look to His mercy as your daily strength.

#### Daily Scripture Readings

Day	Scripture	Focus
Mon	Lamentations 3:22–23	God's steadfast love and mercy
Tue	Psalm 36:5	God's steadfast love reaches to the heavens
Wed	Deuteronomy 7:9	God keeps covenant and steadfast love
Thu	Psalm 100:5	God's faithfulness to all generations
Fri	Isaiah 40:28	God never grows tired or weary
Sat	Psalm 23:6	Goodness and mercy follow us
Sun	2 Timothy 2:13	God remains faithful even when we don't

# **A** Prayer

Lord, Your faithfulness is my anchor when everything else feels uncertain. Thank You for Your mercy that is new every morning. Help me to trust Your unchanging love even in the hardest moments. Strengthen me by Your faithfulness today. In Jesus' name, amen.



# Week 9 – God's Faithfulness in Every Season

- 1. How do you seek God's guidance when facing difficult decisions this month?
- 2. What scriptures or prayers bring you clarity and peace during uncertain times?
- 3. How can you cultivate a spirit of patience and trust in God amid ongoing challenges?
- 4. In what ways can you encourage your staff to rely on God's wisdom this season?
- 5. What personal habits help you stay connected to God's leading during busy periods?



#### Week 10 – Courage to Lead Boldly

Weekly Focus Verse:

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." – Joshua 1:9 (ESV)

#### Reflection

October's pressures can feel relentless—decisions with high stakes, tough conversations, and the weight of expectations.

God's command to Joshua echoes across the centuries to you: *Be strong and courageous*. This courage doesn't come from your own strength, but from the presence of God who goes before you.

Leading boldly means stepping forward even when uncertain, facing criticism with grace, and making hard calls in faith.

Remember, God is with you—your constant companion and source of courage. Lean into that presence today and lead with confidence.

#### Daily Scripture Readings

Day	Scripture	Focus
Mon	Joshua 1:9	Be strong and courageous
Tue	2 Timothy 1:7	Spirit of power, love, and self-control
Wed	Psalm 27:14	Wait for the Lord; be strong
Thu	Deuteronomy 31:6	God will not leave you or forsake you
Fri	Isaiah 41:10	Fear not, for God is with you
Sat	Psalm 31:24	Be strong, take heart
Sun	Romans 8:38–39	Nothing can separate us from God's love

# **A** Prayer

Father, when leadership feels overwhelming, remind me that You are with me. Fill me with courage to lead boldly, not in my strength but in Yours. Help me face every challenge with confidence rooted in Your presence. In Jesus' name, amen.



# Week 10 – Courage to Lead Boldly

- 1. How do you practice humility in your leadership, especially when under pressure?
- 2. Can you recall a time when leading with humility positively impacted your team?
- 3. What challenges do you face in depending on God's strength rather than your own?
- 4. How can embracing weakness open the door for God's power to work through you?
- 5. How might your example of humility encourage those you lead to trust God more deeply?



#### Week 11 – Walking in Wisdom

Weekly Focus Verse:

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding." – Proverbs 9:10 (NIV)

#### Reflection

October is a month filled with critical decisions—from budgets to personnel to strategy. As the pressures grow, it's vital to seek wisdom beyond your own understanding.

Proverbs reminds us that true wisdom begins with the fear of the Lord—an awe and reverence that shapes how we see the world and make choices.

Walking in wisdom means pausing to seek God's perspective, listening for His guidance, and being humble enough to follow His lead.

This week, ask God for a heart that fears Him rightly and a mind open to His counsel.

#### Daily Scripture Readings

Day	Scripture	Focus
Mon	Proverbs 9:10	Fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom
Tue	James 1:5	Ask God for wisdom
Wed	Psalm 111:10	The fear of the Lord leads to wisdom
Thu	Proverbs 3:5–6	Trust in the Lord for guidance
Fri	Ecclesiastes 7:12	Wisdom preserves life
Sat	Colossians 1:9	Pray for spiritual wisdom and understanding
Sun	Psalm 25:4-5	Teach me your ways, O Lord

# **A** Prayer

Lord, I need Your wisdom more than ever. Teach me to fear You rightly and to seek Your understanding in every decision. Help me walk in humility and trust Your guidance. In Jesus' name, amen.



# Week 11 – Walking in Wisdom

- 1. In what ways has God's grace shown up in your leadership this season?
- 2. How can you extend that same grace to your staff and student-athletes?
- 3. What areas of your work feel heavy right now, and how can you invite God's grace to lighten the load?
- 4. How does relying on God's grace influence your decision-making and interactions?
- 5. Who in your circle might benefit from hearing about God's grace through your example?



#### Week 12 – Endurance Through God's Strength

Weekly Focus Verse:

"Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith." – Hebrews 12:1–2 (ESV)

#### Reflection

As the fall season reaches its peak, the demands on your time, energy, and emotions can feel unrelenting.

Hebrews encourages us to run the race with endurance—fixing our eyes on Jesus, the source of our faith and strength.

Endurance is more than physical stamina; it's a spiritual perseverance rooted in hope and trust in Christ.

This week, focus on keeping your gaze on Jesus. Draw strength from Him when you feel weary, and remember you're not running this race alone.

#### Daily Scripture Readings

#### Day Scripture Focus

**Mon** *Hebrews 12:1–2* Run with endurance, fixing eyes on Jesus

**Tue** *Isaiah 40:31* Renewed strength for those who hope in the Lord

Wed Galatians 6:9 Don't grow weary in doing good

**Thu** *Philippians 3:14* Press on toward the goal

Fri 2 Timothy 4:7 I have fought the good fight

**Sat** Psalm 73:26 God is the strength of my heart

**Sun** Romans 5:3–5 Suffering produces perseverance and hope

# **A** Prayer

Lord, the race feels long and the burdens heavy. Help me to run with endurance, fixing my eyes on You. Renew my strength and give me perseverance to finish well. Thank You for being my constant source of hope and power. In Jesus' name, amen.



# Week 12 – Endurance Through God's Strength

- 1. How do you cultivate peace in your heart amid the fast pace of your role?
- 2. When has God's peace helped you overcome anxiety or fear?
- 3. What spiritual practices help you stay centered and calm during stressful days?
- 4. How can your personal peace influence the atmosphere and morale of your athletic department?
- 5. In what ways can you share the peace of Christ with those you lead?



# Week 13 – Gratitude in Every Circumstance

Weekly Focus Verse:

"Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." — International Thessalonians 5:18 (ESV)

#### Reflection

November brings the tail end of the competitive season and the push toward finals, recruitment, and program evaluations. It's easy to focus on what remains undone or the challenges still ahead.

Paul's encouragement to give thanks in *all* circumstances challenges us to shift perspective. Gratitude is not just a feeling but a choice to recognize God's blessings even in the hard moments.

This week, practice gratitude intentionally. Reflect on the victories, the growth, the people God has placed in your life, and His constant presence.

Gratitude transforms stress into praise and weariness into worship.

#### Daily Scripture Readings

Day	Scripture	Focus
Mon	1 Thessalonians 5:18	Give thanks in all circumstances
Tue	Psalm 107:1	Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good
Wed	Colossians 3:15	Let the peace of Christ rule in your heart
Thu	Psalm 118:24	This is the day the Lord has made
Fri	Philippians 4:6	Present your requests with thanksgiving
Sat	Ephesians 5:20	Give thanks always to God the Father
Sun	James 1:17	Every good gift is from above

# **A** Prayer

Father, thank You for Your blessings in every season. Help me to cultivate a heart of gratitude, even when the demands feel heavy. Teach me to see Your goodness in all circumstances and to praise You with thanksgiving. In Jesus' name, amen.



# Week 13 – *Gratitude in Every Circumstance*

- 1. How do you find hope in God's promises during challenging times?
- 2. What are some recent situations where God's hope has sustained you?
- 3. How can you encourage your team to hold onto hope when facing setbacks?
- 4. In what ways can hope influence your leadership decisions and attitude?
- 5. How does hope in God help you persevere through difficult seasons?



#### Week 14 – Finding Peace During Busyness

Weekly Focus Verse:

"And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." – Philippians 4:7 (ESV)

#### Reflection

November's hustle—from managing final games to budget planning and staff coordination—can leave your heart restless and your mind overwhelmed.

Paul reminds us that God's peace transcends human understanding. This peace isn't dependent on circumstances but is a divine guard over your heart and mind.

This week, amidst your packed schedule, intentionally invite God's peace to rule. Through prayer, pause, and presence, allow His peace to calm anxiety and bring clarity.

Remember, peace is a leadership tool, not just a feeling.

#### Daily Scripture Readings

Day	Scripture	Focus
Mon	Philippians 4:7	Peace of God guarding hearts and minds
Tue	John 14:27	Jesus gives peace, not as the world gives
Wed	Isaiah 26:3	Perfect peace to those who trust in You
Thu	Psalm 4:8	Resting safely in God's peace
Fri	Colossians 3:15	Let peace rule in your heart
Sat	Matthew 11:28–30	Rest for the weary
Sun	Psalm 29:11	The Lord gives strength and peace

# **A** Prayer

Lord, the demands of this season threaten to overwhelm me. I ask for Your peace that surpasses understanding to guard my heart and mind. Help me to rest in You and lead with calm confidence. In Jesus' name, amen.



# Week 14 – Finding Peace During Busyness

- 1. How do you experience God's strength in your leadership when you feel weak?
- 2. What are some ways you can remind yourself daily of God's sustaining power?
- 3. How can acknowledging your limitations help you depend more fully on God?
- 4. How might sharing your reliance on God's strength encourage others?
- 5. What steps can you take this week to invite God's power into your decisions and actions?



#### Week 15 – Trusting God's Provision

Weekly Focus Verse:

"And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus." – Philippians 4:19 (ESV)

#### Reflection

In the busy stretch of November, worries about budgets, staffing, and program needs can feel overwhelming. Yet God promises to supply every need according to His glorious riches.

Trusting God's provision means releasing control and acknowledging that He is the ultimate source of all resources—financial, emotional, and spiritual.

This week, lean into God's faithfulness. Bring your concerns honestly to Him and rest in the assurance that He will provide what you need, often in ways beyond expectation.

#### Daily Scripture Readings

Day Scripture Focus

Mon Philippians 4:19 God will supply every need

Tue Matthew 6:31–33 Don't worry—seek God first

Wed Psalm 23:1 The Lord is my shepherd; I lack nothing

**Thu** Psalm 34:10 Those who seek the Lord lack no good thing

Fri 2 Corinthians 9:8 God provides abundantly

**Sat** Romans 8:32 God gave us His Son; He will provide all else

**Sun** *Psalm 37:25* The righteous are never forsaken

# **A** Prayer

Father, I confess my worries about resources and provision. Help me trust fully that You will supply all I need according to Your riches. Teach me to seek You first and rest in Your faithfulness. In Jesus' name, amen.



# Week 15 – Trusting God's Provision

- 1. What are you most grateful for in this current season of leadership?
- 2. How does practicing gratitude impact your outlook and resilience?
- 3. In what ways can you express thankfulness to your staff, coaches, or athletes this week?
- 4. How has God's faithfulness carried you through the highs and lows of this year?
- 5. What spiritual habits help you maintain a grateful heart, even in stressful times?



#### Week 16 – Joyful Thanks in Every Season

Weekly Focus Verse:

"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." – 1 Thessalonians 5:16–18 (ESV)

#### Reflection

As the calendar year draws closer to its end, it's tempting to rush through tasks, focus on unfinished goals, or feel weary.

Paul's encouragement to *rejoice always* and *give thanks in all circumstances* calls us to a deeper posture of joy—rooted not in circumstance but in Christ.

This week, choose joy intentionally. Celebrate the victories, acknowledge God's faithfulness, and cultivate a heart that prays continually.

Joy fuels endurance, refreshes the soul, and strengthens leadership.

#### Daily Scripture Readings

Day	Scripture	Focus
Mon	1 Thessalonians 5:16–18	Rejoice always and give thanks
Tue	Psalm 100:1-5	Joyful praise to the Lord
Wed	Nehemiah 8:10	The joy of the Lord is your strength
Thu	Philippians 4:4	Rejoice in the Lord always
Fri	Psalm 16:11	Fullness of joy in God's presence
Sat	John 15:11	Jesus desires your joy to be full
Sun	Romans 15:13	Abounding hope and joy by the Spirit

# **A** Prayer

Lord, fill my heart with Your joy even in the busiest season. Help me to pray continually and give thanks in every circumstance. May Your joy be my strength and my leadership glorify You. In Jesus' name, amen.



### Week 16 – Joyful Thanks in Every Season

- 1. How can you intentionally prepare your heart for the coming Advent season?
- 2. In what areas of your leadership or life do you need God's peace and presence right now?
- 3. What does it look like for you to wait on the Lord with hope and expectation?
- 4. How can you create moments of reflection amid the busyness of the year-end?
- 5. Who in your circle might need a word of encouragement or a reminder of God's nearness?



# Week 17 – Preparing Your Heart for Peace

Weekly Focus Verse:

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid." – John 14:27 (ESV)

#### Reflection

December is often a season of high expectations, deadlines, and reflection. Amid the busyness, Jesus offers a profound gift: His peace.

This peace is unlike any the world can give. It calms troubled hearts and quiets fearful thoughts.

As you prepare for the end of the year, intentionally invite Christ's peace to settle your soul. Let go of stress and embrace the quiet assurance that He is with you.

This week, make space daily to rest in His peace, no matter the external pressures.

#### Daily Scripture Readings

Da	iy Scripture	Focus
Mo	on John 14:27	Jesus gives peace
Tu	e Philippians 4:6–7	Prayer brings peace
W	e <b>d</b> Isaiah 26:3	Perfect peace in trusting God
Th	u Psalm 4:8	Resting in God's peace
Fr	i Colossians 3:15	Let peace rule in your heart
Sa	t Matthew 11:28–30	Rest for the weary
Su	n Romans 15:13	Abounding hope and peace by the Spirit

## **A** Prayer

Lord, amid the year-end rush, help me to receive Your peace that surpasses all understanding. Calm my heart and steady my mind. Teach me to rest in You daily and lead with Your peace. In Jesus' name, amen.



# Week 17 – Preparing Your Heart for Peace

- 1. How does the promise of "God with us" bring you peace in your leadership challenges?
- 2. What are some ways you've seen God's presence show up during this past semester?
- 3. In what areas do you need to be reminded that God is with you right now?
- 4. How can you slow down and reflect on Emmanuel—God with us—during the demands of this month?
- 5. How might you help your staff or student-athletes experience God's presence this season?



## Week 18 – Finding Joy and Hope in the Midst of Demands

Weekly Focus Verse:

"Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer." – Romans 12:12 (ESV)

#### Reflection

The holiday season can be both joyful and stressful—balancing responsibilities while longing for peace and connection.

Paul's words remind us to *rejoice in hope* even when challenges press in, to be patient when times are difficult, and to remain steady in prayer.

Hope is a powerful anchor that fuels joy and patience. Prayer connects us to the source of all hope and peace.

This week, cultivate joy and hope through consistent prayer. Let your leadership reflect the steadfastness God provides.

#### Daily Scripture Readings

Day	Scripture	Focus
Mon	Romans 12:12	Rejoice in hope and be patient
Tue	Psalm 33:20-22	Hope in the Lord brings joy
Wed	Isaiah 40:31	Renewed strength from hope
Thu	Nehemiah 8:10	The joy of the Lord is your strength
Fri	Philippians 4:4	Rejoice in the Lord always
Sat	Psalm 16:11	Fullness of joy in God's presence
Sun	1 Peter 1:3	Living hope through the resurrection

# **A** Prayer

Lord, help me to rejoice in the hope You provide, especially in the midst of busy demands. Give me patience for the hard moments and a heart that is constant in prayer. May my hope and joy shine through my leadership. In Jesus' name, amen.



# Week 18 – Finding Joy and Hope in the Midst of Demands

- 1. Where in your life or leadership do you need to experience the peace of Christ right now?
- 2. How can you become more intentional about resting in God's peace this Advent season?
- 3. What practices help you shift your focus from anxiety to trust in God's promises?
- 4. How can your calm and trust in God set the tone for those you lead?
- 5. Who might need a reminder from you this week that true peace is found in Jesus?



### Week 19 – Walking in God's Light

Weekly Focus Verse:

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." – Psalm 119:105 (ESV)

#### Reflection

December's shorter days and busy schedules can sometimes bring feelings of fatigue or uncertainty.

Psalm 119 reminds us that God's Word is our guiding light, illuminating the path ahead even when the way feels unclear.

When decisions, challenges, or discouragement arise, turn to Scripture as your lamp—God's steady, reliable guidance.

This week, lean into God's Word daily, allowing His light to dispel darkness and lead your steps.

#### Daily Scripture Readings

**Day Scripture Focus Mon** *Psalm 119:105* God's Word as light

**Tue** John 8:12 Jesus is the light of the world

Wed Isaiah 42:16 God leads in darkness

**Thu** Psalm 27:1 The Lord is my light and salvation

Fri Proverbs 3:5–6 Trust God's guidance

Sat Psalm 56:13 God's Word keeps me safe

Sun 2 Samuel 22:29 God makes my way perfect

# **A** Prayer

Lord, in times of darkness or uncertainty, be my light and guide. Help me to trust Your Word as my path and to follow Your direction with confidence. Thank You for leading me each step of the way. In Jesus' name, amen.



# Week 19 – Walking in God's Light

- 1. How have you experienced the joy of the Lord during this past semester?
- 2. What are some simple ways you can celebrate God's goodness, even in a demanding season?
- 3. In what areas do you need God to restore your joy?
- 4. How can joy in Christ impact your attitude and leadership, especially under pressure?
- 5. Who around you might need to see or share in your joy this week?



#### Week 20 – Hope Anchored in Christ

Weekly Focus Verse:

"We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure." – Hebrews 6:19 (NIV)

#### Reflection

As the calendar year ends, it's natural to reflect on challenges faced and look ahead with anticipation.

Hebrews reminds us that our hope is not wishful thinking but an anchor—firm and secure in Christ.

This hope sustains us through uncertainty and fuels perseverance as we prepare for new opportunities and challenges.

This week, anchor your heart in Christ's hope. Let it steady your soul and inspire your leadership in the coming year.

### Daily Scripture Readings

Day	Scripture	Focus
Mon	Hebrews 6:19	Hope as an anchor for the soul
Tue	Romans 15:13	Hope that overflows by the Spirit
Wed	Psalm 62:5	Waiting quietly for God's hope
Thu	Jeremiah 29:11	God's plans for hope and future
Fri	Lamentations 3:24	The Lord is my portion and hope
Sat	Isaiah 40:31	Renewed strength through hope
Sun	1 Peter 1:13	Hope fully focused on grace

# **A** Prayer

Lord, I thank You for the hope that anchors my soul. As this year closes and a new one begins, help me to rest securely in Your promises. Fill me with confidence and anticipation for all You have ahead. In Jesus' name, amen.



### Week 20 – Hope Anchored in Christ

- 1. How does the gift of Jesus as Savior shape the way you view your leadership and purpose?
- 2. In what ways can you celebrate Christ's birth personally and with those you lead?
- 3. What distractions threaten to pull your focus away from Jesus during this season?
- 4. How can you keep Christ at the center of your thoughts and plans this week?
- 5. How might you share the message of God's love and grace with someone in your department or community?



### Week 21 – New Beginnings in God's Grace

Weekly Focus Verse:

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come." -2 Corinthians 5:17 (ESV)

#### Reflection

The start of a new year naturally invites reflection and fresh starts. As an athletic director, each year brings new challenges, opportunities, and decisions.

In Christ, every day is an opportunity for renewal. The old pressures and mistakes don't define you—God offers a fresh start filled with grace and hope.

This week, embrace the new beginnings God is offering. Trust that His grace will sustain you through every decision and challenge ahead.

#### Daily Scripture Readings

Day	Scripture	Focus
Mon	2 Corinthians 5:17	New creation in Christ
Tue	Isaiah 43:18–19	God does a new thing
Wed	Lamentations 3:22–23	God's mercies are new every morning
Thu	Philippians 3:13–14	Forgetting the past, pressing forward
Fri	Psalm 40:3	New song of praise
Sat	Ephesians 4:22–24	Put on the new self
Sun	Romans 12:2	Be transformed by renewing your mind

# **A** Prayer

Lord, thank You for the gift of new beginnings in You. Help me to let go of past burdens and embrace Your fresh mercy and grace. Guide me this year with renewed strength and purpose. In Jesus' name, amen.



# Week 21 – New Beginnings in God's Grace

- 1. What hopes or goals are you bringing into the new year, and how are you surrendering them to God?
- 2. How can you align your leadership vision with God's purpose for your life and department?
- 3. In what ways do you want to grow spiritually this year?
- 4. What does it mean for you to start fresh in Christ as a leader?
- 5. How can you invite your staff or student-athletes into a shared commitment to seek God in the year ahead?



### Week 22 – Trusting God's Direction

Weekly Focus Verse:

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths." – Proverbs 3:5–6 (ESV)

#### Reflection

As the new year unfolds, many decisions and plans lie ahead. It can be tempting to rely on your own experience and logic alone.

Yet Scripture calls us to trust in the Lord with all your heart and acknowledge Him in every step.

Trusting God's direction means surrendering control and leaning into His wisdom—believing He will lead you through complexities with clarity.

This week, practice daily trust. Invite God into every plan and decision, knowing He will guide your path.

### Daily Scripture Readings

Day	Scripture	Focus
Mon	Proverbs 3:5–6	Trust and acknowledge God
Tue	Psalm 32:8	God instructs and guides
Wed	Jeremiah 29:11	God's plans to prosper you
Thu	Isaiah 30:21	Voice guiding your steps
Fri	Psalm 37:23	The Lord directs the steps
Sat	James 1:5	Ask God for wisdom
Sun	Psalm 119:105	God's Word lights the way

## **A** Prayer

Father, help me to trust You fully in this new year. Guide my steps and give me wisdom for every decision. Teach me to listen for Your voice and follow Your direction with confidence. In Jesus' name, amen.



### Week 22 – Trusting God's Direction

- 1. How do you handle uncertainty in your role, and how can you better trust God in those moments?
- 2. What decisions are ahead that require you to seek God's direction?
- 3. How has God been faithful to guide you in the past, and how does that encourage you now?
- 4. In what ways can you model faith and trust for those under your leadership?
- 5. What does it look like to actively listen for God's voice in your daily work?



### Week 23 – Persevering with Faithfulness

Weekly Focus Verse:

"Let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up." – Galatians 6:9 (ESV)

#### Reflection

Leadership, especially in athletics, can be demanding and exhausting. It's easy to feel worn down by ongoing challenges and pressures.

Paul encourages us to not grow weary but to keep doing good with steadfast faith.

Perseverance isn't just about endurance; it's about faithful commitment rooted in hope.

This week, renew your strength in God's promises. Keep leading well, trusting that your efforts will bear fruit in His perfect timing.

# Daily Scripture Readings

Day	Scripture	Focus
Mon	Galatians 6:9	Don't grow weary of doing good
Tue	Isaiah 40:31	Renewed strength for the weary
Wed	2 Thessalonians 3:13	Continue in doing good
Thu	Psalm 27:14	Wait for the Lord; be strong
Fri	Hebrews 12:1	Run with endurance
Sat	Philippians 3:14	Press on toward the goal
Sun	Romans 12:11	Be fervent in spirit, serving the Lord

## **A** Prayer

Lord, when I feel weary, remind me to persevere with faithfulness. Renew my strength and hope. Help me to keep doing good and trust that You will bring the harvest in due time. In Jesus' name, amen.



### Week 23 – *Persevering with Faithfulness*

- 1. Where in your leadership are you most tempted to rely on your own strength instead of God's?
- 2. How does admitting weakness open the door for God to work more fully through you?
- 3. What recent challenge reminded you of your need for God's grace?
- 4. How can you create a culture that values dependence on God, not just performance?
- 5. Who can you encourage this week by sharing how God is sustaining you?



### Week 24 – Resting in God's Peace

Weekly Focus Verse:

"And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." – Philippians 4:7 (ESV)

#### Reflection

Leadership brings pressures that can stir anxiety and unrest. But God offers a peace that surpasses human understanding—a peace that guards your heart and mind.

Philippians reminds us that this peace is a gift, accessible when we turn to Christ in trust.

This week, choose to rest in God's peace daily. When stress rises, pause, breathe, and invite His calm to settle within you.

Leading from a place of peace strengthens your decision-making and witness.

#### Daily Scripture Readings

Day	Scripture	Focus
Mon	Philippians 4:7	God's peace guards hearts and minds
Tue	John 14:27	Jesus gives peace, not as the world gives
Wed	Isaiah 26:3	Perfect peace for those who trust God
Thu	Psalm 4:8	Resting safely in God's peace
Fri	Colossians 3:15	Let peace rule in your heart
Sat	Matthew 11:28–30	Rest for the weary and burdened
Sun	Romans 15:13	Peace and hope by the Spirit

# **A** Prayer

Lord, when the demands of leadership press in, help me to rest in Your peace. Guard my heart and mind with Your calm assurance. Teach me to lead with tranquility and confidence in You. In Jesus' name, amen.



# Week 24 – Resting in God's Peace

- 1. What situations in your leadership currently require patience and perseverance?
- 2. How can you practically remind yourself to "wait on the Lord" when results aren't immediate?
- 3. What are some past examples where God's timing proved better than your own?
- 4. How does patient trust in God impact the way you lead under pressure?
- 5. Who on your team needs encouragement to keep going and trust God's timing?



### Week 25 – Strength and Courage to Lead

Weekly Focus Verse:

"Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." – Joshua 1:9 (ESV)

#### Reflection

February often brings its own challenges—mid-year reviews, planning for spring, and balancing competing demands.

God commands Joshua—and us—to be strong and courageous, reminding us that He is always present.

Your leadership requires boldness rooted in God's presence, not your own might.

This week, draw strength from God's promise to be with you. Face each challenge courageously, knowing you are not alone.

### Daily Scripture Readings

Day	Scripture	Focus
Mon	Joshua 1:9	Be strong and courageous
Tue	Isaiah 41:10	Fear not, God strengthens you
Wed	2 Timothy 1:7	Spirit of power, love, and self-control
Thu	Psalm 27:14	Wait for the Lord; be strong
Fri	Deuteronomy 31:6	God will not forsake you
Sat	Psalm 31:24	Be strong, take heart
Sun	Romans 8:38–39	Nothing separates us from God's love

# **A** Prayer

Lord, help me to be strong and courageous in leadership. Remind me daily that You are with me in every challenge. Fill me with Your Spirit to lead boldly and faithfully. In Jesus' name, amen.



# Week 25 – Strength and Courage to Lead

- 1. How do you define wisdom in your leadership, and where do you seek it most?
- 2. What challenges in your role require God's wisdom right now?
- 3. How can you cultivate humility to receive God's guidance more fully?
- 4. In what ways can you encourage your staff and athletes to seek God's wisdom?
- 5. How has God's wisdom shaped a recent decision or outcome in your department?



#### Week 26 – Seeking God's Wisdom

Weekly Focus Verse:

"If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him." – James 1:5 (ESV)

#### Reflection

Leadership requires countless decisions, many with significant impact. The pressure to choose well can be heavy.

God invites us to ask for wisdom, promising to give it generously.

This week, intentionally seek God's wisdom in every decision, big or small. Trust that He will provide clarity, insight, and peace.

Let your leadership reflect the discernment that comes from a heart aligned with God.

#### Daily Scripture Readings

Day	Scripture	Focus
Mon	James 1:5	Ask God for wisdom
Tue	Proverbs 2:6	The Lord gives wisdom
Wed	Proverbs 3:5–6	Trust God to direct your path
Thu	Ecclesiastes 7:12	Wisdom preserves life
Fri	Psalm 111:10	Fear of the Lord is beginning of wisdom
Sat	Colossians 1:9	Pray for spiritual wisdom
Sun	Psalm 25:4-5	Teach me your ways, O Lord

## **A** Prayer

Father, I need Your wisdom to lead well. Please guide my thoughts and decisions. Help me to trust Your guidance and to seek Your counsel above all else. In Jesus' name, amen.



# Week 26 – Seeking God's Wisdom

- 1. What does it mean to you to "walk humbly with your God" in your leadership role?
- 2. How can humility improve your relationships with staff, coaches, and athletes?
- 3. When has pride been a barrier to hearing God's voice, and how can you overcome it?
- 4. How can you model servant leadership grounded in humility this week?
- 5. In what ways does humility draw you closer to God and others?



### Week 27 – Persevering with Trust

Weekly Focus Verse:

"But they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint." – Isaiah 40:31 (ESV)

#### Reflection

Sometimes, the demands and pressures in leadership can feel draining and overwhelming.

Isaiah encourages us to wait on the Lord—to place our hope in Him—and promises renewed strength in return.

Perseverance in leadership means trusting God's timing, even when the path is long or unclear.

This week, commit to waiting on God, drawing strength from Him, and pressing forward with confidence.

### Daily Scripture Readings

Day	Scripture	Focus
Mon	Isaiah 40:31	Renewed strength from waiting on God
Tue	Galatians 6:9	Don't grow weary in doing good
Wed	Psalm 27:14	Wait for the Lord; be strong
Thu	2 Corinthians 12:9	God's grace is sufficient
Fri	Hebrews 12:1	Run with endurance
Sat	James 1:12	Blessing for those who persevere
Sun	<i>Romans 5:3–5</i>	Suffering produces perseverance and hope

### **A** Prayer

Lord, help me to persevere with patience and trust in Your timing. Renew my strength and keep my eyes fixed on You as I lead. Thank You for Your grace and faithfulness. In Jesus' name, amen.



### Week 27 – Persevering with Trust

- 1. How do you experience God's strength when facing overwhelming challenges?
- 2. What are some areas in your leadership where you feel weak but need to rely on God's power?
- 3. How can you encourage your team to seek strength from God rather than their own abilities?
- 4. In what ways does acknowledging your dependence on God affect your leadership decisions?
- 5. How has God's strength helped you persevere in difficult moments?



### Week 28 – *Leading with Humility and Servanthood*

Weekly Focus Verse:

"But whoever would be great among you must be your servant." – Matthew 20:26 (ESV)

#### Reflection

Leadership in athletics often involves managing many moving parts, balancing authority with collaboration, and handling the weight of responsibility.

Jesus teaches a radical model for leadership: true greatness comes through humble servanthood.

This week, reflect on what it means to lead by serving others—your staff, coaches, student-athletes, and community.

Humility doesn't diminish your authority; it strengthens your influence and honors God's heart for leadership.

#### Daily Scripture Readings

Day	Scripture	Focus
Mon	Matthew 20:26	Greatness through serving
Tue	Philippians 2:3–4	Value others above yourself
Wed	Mark 10:45	Jesus came to serve
Thu	John 13:12–17	Jesus washes the disciples' feet
Fri	1 Peter 5:5–6	Clothe yourselves with humility
Sat	Romans 12:10	Honor others above yourselves
Sun	Colossians 3:23–24	Serve wholeheartedly as for the Lord

## **A** Prayer

Father God, thank You for the perfect example of leadership in Jesus, who came not to be served but to serve. Help me to lay down my pride and embrace humility in every area of my leadership. Teach me to consider others' needs above my own and to lead with a servant's heart. When the weight of responsibility feels heavy, remind me that true strength comes from serving in Your power and grace. Give me the wisdom and compassion to influence those around me for Your glory. May my leadership reflect Your love and draw others closer to You. In Jesus' name, I pray, amen.



# Week 28 – *Leading with Humility and Servanthood*

- 1. What fears or worries tend to surface during busy or stressful times?
- 2. How can you intentionally cast your anxieties on God instead of carrying them alone?
- 3. When have you experienced God's peace amid uncertainty, and how can you hold onto that experience?
- 4. How can trusting in God's faithfulness help you face future challenges with confidence?
- 5. Who in your life might benefit from hearing about God's peace through your testimony?



### Week 29 – Persevering in Faithfulness

Weekly Focus Verse:

"Let us not grow weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." – Galatians 6:9 (NIV)

#### Reflection

March marks a pivotal time in the athletic calendar — basketball seasons peak, spring sports begin, and the pressures mount.

It's easy to feel fatigued or discouraged by the endless demands and challenges.

Paul's encouragement to persevere in doing good reminds us that faithfulness is rewarded in God's perfect timing.

This week, lean into God's strength and promise, continuing to serve with diligence and hope.

#### Daily Scripture Readings

Day	Scripture	Focus
Mon	Galatians 6:9	Don't grow weary in doing good
Tue	Isaiah 40:31	Renewed strength for the weary
Wed	Psalm 31:24	Be strong and take heart
Thu	Hebrews 12:1	Run with endurance the race
Fri	Philippians 3:14	Press on toward the goal
Sat	Romans 12:11	Be fervent in spirit, serving the Lord
Sun	Psalm 28:7	The Lord is my strength and shield

## **A** Prayer

Heavenly Father, in the midst of mounting responsibilities and the weariness that can come with them, I come to You seeking renewed strength. Help me not to grow weary in doing good, but to press on with faith and diligence. Remind me that You are my strength and shield, and that in Your perfect timing, the seeds I sow will bear fruit. When discouragement creeps in, lift my eyes to You, the author and perfecter of my faith. Fill my heart with hope and perseverance, so that I may lead with joy and steadfastness. Guide my steps each day and let my work glorify Your name. In Jesus' name, amen.



# Week 29 – Persevering in Faithfulness

- 1. How do you prepare your heart and mind for the busy months ahead?
- 2. What spiritual disciplines help you maintain focus during stressful seasons?
- 3. How can you lean on God's strength to manage the increased demands in your role?
- 4. In what ways can you encourage your staff to seek God's guidance during busy times?
- 5. What reminders can you use to keep God at the center of your leadership this month?



#### Week 30 – Seeking Wisdom and Discernment

Weekly Focus Verse:

"If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him." – James 1:5 (ESV)

#### Reflection

March is a season of tough decisions—evaluations, postseason planning, and preparation for the coming months.

Leadership demands not just hard work but godly wisdom and discernment.

James reminds us that God generously gives wisdom to those who ask.

This week, commit to seeking God's guidance daily. Let His wisdom shape your decisions and interactions.

Your leadership will be marked by clarity and peace when rooted in divine insight.

#### Daily Scripture Readings

Day	Scripture	Focus
Mon	James 1:5	Ask God for wisdom
Tue	Proverbs 2:6	Wisdom comes from the Lord
Wed	Proverbs 3:5–6	Trust God to direct your path
Thu	Ecclesiastes 7:12	Wisdom preserves life
Fri	Psalm 111:10	Fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom
Sat	Colossians 1:9	Pray for spiritual wisdom
Sun	Psalm 25:4–5	Teach me your ways, O Lord

## **A** Prayer

Gracious Father, I come before You recognizing my need for wisdom beyond my own understanding. As I face difficult decisions and complex situations, please grant me discernment and clarity. Help me to trust in Your guidance fully and to seek Your counsel continually. May Your wisdom guard my heart and mind, guiding every step I take in leadership. Teach me to listen attentively to Your voice and to act with courage and integrity. I surrender my plans to You and ask that Your will be done in all things. In Jesus' name, amen.



# Week 30 – Seeking Wisdom and Discernment

- 1. When has God's peace helped you stay calm amid pressure?
- 2. What are some practical ways you can cultivate peace in your daily leadership?
- 3. How can trusting God's sovereignty ease anxiety during challenging decisions?
- 4. In what ways can you model peaceful leadership for your team?
- 5. Who might benefit from your example of trusting God's peace this week?



# Week 31 – *Enduring with Hope*

Weekly Focus Verse:

"Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope." – Romans 5:3–4 (ESV)

#### Reflection

The pressures of this season can feel intense, with the weight of expectations and transitions pressing in.

Paul reminds us that suffering and difficulty are not meaningless; they produce endurance, shape our character, and ultimately deepen our hope.

Leadership often requires pushing through hard seasons with faith that God is at work.

This week, embrace endurance as a path to growth and hope. Let your faith be strengthened even as challenges come.

### Daily Scripture Readings

Day	Scripture	Focus
Mon	<i>Romans 5:3–4</i>	Suffering produces endurance and hope
Tue	James 1:2–4	Testing produces steadfastness
Wed	Hebrews 12:1–2	Run with endurance, fixing eyes on Jesus
Thu	2 Corinthians 4:16–18	Eternal perspective amid hardships
Fri	Isaiah 40:29	God gives strength to the weary
Sat	Psalm 31:24	Be strong and take heart
Sun	Psalm 46:1	God is our refuge and strength

# **A** Prayer

Heavenly Father, in the midst of demanding seasons, help me to endure with hope and faith. When challenges feel overwhelming, remind me that You are working through every difficulty to shape my character and deepen my trust in You. Give me strength when I grow weary, and steady my heart with Your peace. Help me to keep my eyes fixed on Jesus, the source of my endurance and hope. May my leadership reflect Your faithfulness and inspire those I serve. In Jesus' name, amen.



# Week 31 – *Enduring with Hope*

- 1. How have you seen God's faithfulness in your leadership this year?
- 2. What encouragement can you draw from God's promises when facing setbacks?
- 3. How can you celebrate the victories and lessons learned with your team?
- 4. In what ways can you keep your focus on God's faithfulness amid challenges?
- 5. How can sharing stories of God's faithfulness strengthen your department's spirit?



### Week 32 – *Leading with Humility and Dependence*

Weekly Focus Verse:

"But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me." – 2 Corinthians 12:9 (ESV)

#### Reflection

Leadership can sometimes feel like carrying heavy burdens alone, especially when solutions seem out of reach.

Paul's words remind us that God's grace is enough and His power shines brightest in our weakness.

Acknowledging your limitations and leaning on God's strength is not a sign of failure but a source of true power.

This week, practice humility and dependence on God in all areas of your leadership. Let His grace empower you.

#### Daily Scripture Readings

Day	Scripture	Focus
Mon	2 Corinthians 12:9	God's grace is sufficient
Tue	Psalm 46:10	Be still and know God
Wed	Isaiah 40:29	God gives strength to the weary
Thu	James 4:6	God opposes the proud but gives grace
Fri	Philippians 4:13	Strength through Christ
Sat	Micah 6:8	Walk humbly with God
Sun	Psalm 62:5	Find rest in God alone

# **A** Prayer

Lord, I confess my tendency to rely on my own strength and control. Teach me to embrace humility and lean fully on Your grace. In my weakness, let Your power be made perfect. Help me to pause and be still before You, finding rest and renewal in Your presence. Give me the courage to lead with dependence on You, knowing that Your strength sustains me. May my leadership honor You and reflect Your grace to those I serve. In Jesus' name, amen.



# Week 32 – *Leading with Humility and Dependence*

- 1. How do you find rest in God amid the demands of your role?
- 2. What practices help you slow down and refresh your spirit?
- 3. How can trusting in God's promises provide peace during busy seasons?
- 4. In what ways can you encourage your staff to also find rest in God?
- 5. Who in your life needs encouragement to prioritize spiritual rest and renewal?



### Week 33 – Renewal and Hope in God's Faithfulness

Weekly Focus Verse:

"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope." – Jeremiah 29:11 (ESV)

#### Reflection

April often brings a sense of transition—seasons ending, new beginnings on the horizon, and a mixture of fatigue and anticipation.

God's promise in Jeremiah assures us that He holds our future with hope and goodness, even when circumstances feel uncertain.

This week, let God's faithfulness renew your heart and vision. Trust that His plans for you and your program are good.

Allow hope to anchor your leadership as you navigate the closing stretch of the year.

#### Daily Scripture Readings

Day	Scripture	Focus
Mon	Jeremiah 29:11	God's plans give hope
Tue	Lamentations 3:22–23	God's steadfast mercy and renewal
Wed	Isaiah 40:31	Renewed strength through hope
Thu	Psalm 71:20	God's faithfulness through trouble
Fri	Romans 15:13	Abounding hope by the Spirit
Sat	Psalm 23:3	God restores my soul
Sun	2 Corinthians 4:16	Inner renewal despite outer decay

# **A** Prayer

Father, thank You for Your unfailing faithfulness and the hope You place in my heart. As I approach the closing months of this year, renew my strength and vision. Help me to trust Your plans and rest in Your goodness. May Your hope sustain me through every challenge and inspire my leadership to reflect Your grace and steadfast love. Guide me forward with confidence and peace. In Jesus' name, amen.



# Week 33 – Renewal and Hope in God's Faithfulness

- 1. How can you practice gratitude even when facing difficulties at work?
- 2. What blessings or answered prayers can you reflect on this week?
- 3. How does thankfulness shift your perspective during stressful times?
- 4. In what ways can you encourage a culture of gratitude within your department?
- 5. Who can you thank or encourage this week as an expression of gratitude?



### Week 34 – Receiving Grace and Offering Encouragement

Weekly Focus Verse:

"Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing." -1 Thessalonians 5:11 (ESV)

#### Reflection

As the demands of the year peak, it's vital to both receive God's grace and extend encouragement to those around you.

Leadership is not meant to be a solo journey. God calls us to support one another with kindness and strength.

This week, be mindful of the grace God freely offers you and seek ways to build up your staff, coaches, and student-athletes.

Your encouragement can be a powerful source of hope and motivation.

#### **Daily Scripture Readings**

Day	Scripture	Focus
Mon	1 Thessalonians 5:11	Encourage and build up others
Tue	Hebrews 10:24–25	Stir up love and good works
Wed	Ephesians 4:29	Speak words that build others up
Thu	Galatians 6:2	Bear one another's burdens
Fri	Colossians 3:12–14	Clothe yourself with compassion
Sat	Proverbs 12:25	Encouragement brings joy
Sun	Romans 15:5-6	Live in harmony and encouragement

# **A** Prayer

Lord, thank You for Your abundant grace that sustains me each day. Help me to receive Your kindness fully so I can pour it out to those I lead and serve. Teach me to speak words that uplift, encourage, and strengthen. When I feel weary, remind me that encouragement is a powerful gift I can give and receive. May my leadership be marked by grace-filled support that builds up my team and glorifies You. In Jesus' name, amen.



## Week 34 – Receiving Grace and Offering Encouragement

- 1. How do you experience God's steadfast love in your daily leadership?
- 2. What are some ways you can remind yourself of God's unchanging character?
- 3. How can trusting in God's love impact the way you handle stress and pressure?
- 4. In what ways can you extend God's love to your staff and student-athletes?
- 5. How might reflecting on God's love deepen your relationship with Him this week?



#### Week 35 – Trusting God in Transition

Weekly Focus Verse:

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths." – Proverbs 3:5–6 (ESV)

#### Reflection

Transitions can bring uncertainty and anxiety, especially as the year winds down and new seasons approach.

God invites us to trust Him wholeheartedly, not relying on our limited understanding but acknowledging Him in every step.

This week, surrender your worries and plans to God's guidance. Trust that He is making your path straight even when the way feels unclear.

Let your leadership be marked by faith and calm assurance.

#### Daily Scripture Readings

Day	Scripture	Focus
Mon	Proverbs 3:5–6	Trust God wholeheartedly
Tue	Psalm 37:5	Commit your way to the Lord
Wed	Isaiah 41:10	Fear not, God is with you
Thu	Jeremiah 29:11	God's plans for hope
Fri	Philippians 4:6–7	Don't be anxious; receive God's peace
Sat	Psalm 46:10	Be still and know God
Sun	Romans 8:28	God works for good in all things

# **A** Praver

Father, in this season of transition, I choose to place my trust fully in You. Help me to release control and lean on Your understanding rather than my own. Guide my steps and calm my heart with Your peace that surpasses all understanding. Assure me that Your plans for me and those I lead are good and filled with hope. Strengthen my faith so I may lead with confidence and grace, trusting You to direct every path. In Jesus' name, amen.



### Week 35 – Trusting God in Transition

- 1. How do you rely on God's strength when facing ongoing challenges?
- 2. What are some moments this year where God's power was evident in your leadership?
- 3. How can you invite God's strength into areas where you feel weak or overwhelmed?
- 4. In what ways can you encourage your team to depend on God's strength?
- 5. How does recognizing God's power change your approach to leadership?



### Week 36 – Gratitude for God's Faithfulness

Weekly Focus Verse:

"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!" – Psalm 107:1 (ESV)

#### Reflection

As the academic year draws to a close, it's a natural time to reflect on God's faithfulness throughout the challenges and victories.

Gratitude refocuses our hearts on God's goodness, sustaining us through every circumstance.

This week, take time to give thanks for the ways God has provided strength, wisdom, and peace in your leadership journey.

Celebrating His steadfast love fuels joy and hope for what lies ahead.

### **Daily Scripture Readings**

Day	Scripture	Focus
Mon	Psalm 107:1	Give thanks for God's goodness
Tue	1 Thessalonians 5:18	Give thanks in all circumstances
Wed	Psalm 136:1	God's steadfast love endures forever
Thu	Colossians 3:15–17	Let gratitude shape your life
Fri	Psalm 95:1–3	Praise God for His greatness
Sat	Philippians 4:6	Present your requests with thanksgiving
Sun	Hebrews 12:28	Serve God with reverence and gratitude

### **A** Prayer

Gracious God, I thank You for Your steadfast love and faithfulness throughout this year. Even in the midst of challenges, Your goodness has been my strength and hope. Help me to cultivate a heart of gratitude that reflects Your grace in all I do. May my leadership be a testimony of Your sustaining power and a source of encouragement to those I serve. As I close this chapter and look forward to the next, fill me with joy and confidence rooted in Your unchanging love. In Jesus' name, amen.



## Week 36 – Gratitude for God's Faithfulness

- 1. How do you experience God's peace when life feels chaotic?
- 2. What steps can you take to cultivate a peaceful heart despite external pressures?
- 3. How can trusting God's promises help you overcome anxiety or fear?
- 4. In what ways can you share God's peace with your team during stressful times?
- 5. Who in your life might benefit from your example of trusting God's peace?



### Week 37 – Renewal and Preparation for What's Ahead

Weekly Focus Verse:

"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me." – Psalm 51:10 (ESV)

#### Reflection

May often signals both an ending and a new beginning—finalizing this year's work and preparing for the next.

This is a time to seek God's renewal for your heart and mind, clearing away fatigue and stress.

Ask God to refresh your spirit and give clarity for the months to come.

Let this week be a time of spiritual restoration and intentional preparation for the journey ahead.

#### Daily Scripture Readings

Day	Scripture	Focus
Mon	Psalm 51:10	Create a clean heart and renew spirit
Tue	Isaiah 43:18–19	God does new things
Wed	Lamentations 3:22–23	God's mercies are new every morning
Thu	2 Corinthians 5:17	Be a new creation in Christ
Fri	Ephesians 4:23–24	Renew your mind and put on the new self
Sat	Romans 12:2	Be transformed by renewing your mind
Sun	Philippians 3:13–14	Press on toward the goal

## **A** Prayer

Lord, as this season closes and a new one approaches, I ask for Your renewing power to cleanse my heart and restore my spirit. Help me to let go of weariness and discouragement, and to embrace the fresh work You are doing in me. Prepare me for the opportunities and challenges ahead with clarity and strength. May my leadership be rooted in Your renewal and grace, guiding those I serve with wisdom and hope. In Jesus' name, amen.



## Week 37 – Renewal and Preparation for What's Ahead

- 1. What does it mean for you to have a clean heart and a renewed spirit as you lead?
- 2. How can you invite God to cleanse and refresh your heart this week?
- 3. In what ways can you prepare yourself spiritually for the challenges ahead?
- 4. How does a renewed spirit affect your decision-making and relationships?
- 5. Who can you encourage by sharing how God is renewing you in your leadership?



### Week 38 – Gratitude for Growth and Trust in God's Work

Weekly Focus Verse:

"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." – Romans 8:28 (NIV)

#### Reflection

As the academic year concludes, it's important to reflect on the growth—both seen and unseen—that has taken place.

God is always at work in our lives, even when circumstances feel difficult or unclear.

This week, practice gratitude for the ways God has shaped you and your program.

Trust that His purposes are being fulfilled, and remain hopeful for what He will continue to do.

#### Daily Scripture Readings

Day	Scripture	Focus
Mon	Romans 8:28	God works all things for good
Tue	Philippians 1:6	God will complete His work in you
Wed	Psalm 126:5–6	Those who sow in tears reap with joy
Thu	Isaiah 64:8	God shapes us like clay
Fri	2 Corinthians 3:18	Being transformed into Christ's image
Sat	Colossians 1:10	Growing in the knowledge of God
Sun	Ephesians 2:10	Created for good works

## **A** Prayer

Father, I thank You for the growth You have brought in me and in those I lead. Even in challenging times, Your hand has been shaping and preparing us for Your purposes. Help me to trust Your ongoing work and to remain hopeful for what You will do next. May I continue to lead with faith, gratitude, and a heart open to Your guidance. In Jesus' name, amen.



## Week 38 – Gratitude for Growth and Trust in God's Work

- 1. How have you seen God working for good in your leadership, even through difficult times?
- 2. What are some ways you can cultivate gratitude for growth and progress?
- 3. How does trusting God's purpose help you stay hopeful during challenges?
- 4. In what areas do you need to surrender control and trust God more fully?
- 5. How can your faith in God's plan inspire those you lead?



### Week 39 – Finding Peace and Rest in God

Weekly Focus Verse:

"Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." – Matthew 11:28 (ESV)

#### Reflection

After a year filled with hard work, decisions, and constant challenges, it's essential to find rest in God.

Jesus invites all who are weary to come to Him and receive rest for their souls.

This week, intentionally seek God's peace and rest amidst the busyness of transition.

Let your leadership be renewed by the calm assurance only He can provide.

#### Daily Scripture Readings

Day	Scripture	Focus
Mon	Matthew 11:28–30	Rest for the weary and burdened
Tue	Psalm 23:1–3	The Lord restores my soul
Wed	Exodus 33:14	God's presence brings rest
Thu	Isaiah 30:15	Rest and trust in God
Fri	Hebrews 4:9–11	Rest as God's people
Sat	Psalm 62:1-2	Find rest in God alone
Sun	John 14:27	Peace I leave with you

## **A** Prayer

Lord Jesus, I come to You weary from the demands of leadership and life. I accept Your invitation to find rest in Your presence. Restore my soul and calm my anxious heart. Teach me to rely on Your peace, not on my own efforts. Help me to lead from a place of rest and renewal, reflecting Your love and strength to those I serve. Thank You for Your promise to be my refuge and rest. In Your name, I pray, amen.



## Week 39 – Finding Peace and Rest in God

- 1. When have you experienced God's peace in the midst of pressure or stress?
- 2. How can you make space to receive God's rest during busy or challenging days?
- 3. What practices help you stay connected to God's calming presence?
- 4. How can your own experience of rest influence the way you lead your team?
- 5. Who might need encouragement to find rest and peace in God?



### Week 40 – Grateful for God's Guidance

Weekly Focus Verse:

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." – Psalm 119:105 (ESV)

#### Reflection

As you conclude this academic year, reflect on how God's Word has guided your decisions and leadership.

Even in uncertain times, His truth provides clarity and direction.

This week, express gratitude for His guidance and ask Him to prepare your heart for the challenges and opportunities ahead.

Let God's Word continue to illuminate your path as you lead with confidence and faith.

### Daily Scripture Readings

#### Day Scripture Focus

Mon Psalm 119:105 God's Word guides our path

**Tue** *Proverbs 3:5–6* Trust God to direct your ways

Wed Psalm 32:8 God instructs and teaches

**Thu** Isaiah 30:21 God's voice guides us

Fri James 1:5 Ask God for wisdom

Sat Psalm 25:4–5 Teach me Your paths, O Lord

**Sun** *John 8:12* Jesus is the light of the world

### **A** Prayer

Father, thank You for Your faithful guidance throughout this season. Your Word has been a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. As I prepare for what lies ahead, continue to direct my steps and grant me wisdom. Help me to lean on Your truth in every decision I make. May my leadership be grounded in Your Word, reflecting Your light and love to those I serve. In Jesus' name, amen.



## Week 40 – Grateful for God's Guidance

- 1. How has God's Word served as a lamp and light in your leadership journey?
- 2. In what ways do you seek God's guidance through Scripture during difficult decisions?
- 3. How can you grow in trusting God to direct your path this week?
- 4. What habits help you stay rooted in God's Word amid a busy schedule?
- 5. Who can you invite to share in the encouragement of God's guidance?



### Week 41 – *Start from Surrender*

Weekly Focus Verse:

"Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will be established." – Proverbs 16:3 (ESV)

#### Reflection

As the summer approaches, you're already looking ahead—budgets, staffing changes, facility upgrades, preseason logistics, and expectations from every direction. You're likely carrying weight few people ever see.

But before the pace quickens, Scripture invites you to pause and *commit your work to the Lord*. This isn't a ceremonial prayer to check off before you dive into the real grind—it's the foundational move of a faithful leader. Surrendering your plans isn't passive; it's bold trust. It's saying, "Lord, take this department, these coaches, this institution—and do what You will. Use me however You want."

The truth is, no strategic plan, no staffing model, no revenue stream will give you peace if you don't start with surrender. But when you lay it all down—your reputation, your ideas, your influence—God begins to build something stronger, something rooted in His purpose. Your job is important. Your work matters. But God's will is deeper than success metrics. He desires your heart more than your hustle. So begin this year not with a flurry of action, but with a posture of humility.

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#### Daily Scripture Readings

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Day	Scripture	rocus
Mon	Proverbs 3:5–6	Trust in the Lord for direction
Tue	Colossians 3:23–24	Work with a heart for the Lord, not for man
Wed	Matthew 6:33	Seek first the Kingdom and His righteousness
Thu	Psalm 37:5	Trust and commit your way to Him
Fri	Romans 12:1-2	Renew your mind and submit your whole life
Sat	Philippians 1:6	Confidence that He who began the work will finish it
Sun	Isaiah 55:8–9	God's ways are higher than ours

## **A** Prayer

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Lord, this new academic year begins with more questions than answers. Help me surrender—not just the stress but the control I try to keep. Align my goals with Your will. Shape this department for Your glory, not mine. Remind me daily that this is *Your* work, not just my job. Let every meeting, decision, and relationship be soaked in Your presence. I commit this year to You. In Jesus' name, amen.



## Week 41 – *Start from Surrender*

- 1. What are some areas in your leadership where you feel the need for God's peace right now?
- 2. How can you practically "cast your anxieties" on God this week?
- 3. When have you experienced God's peace in a stressful situation? How can that memory encourage you now?
- 4. What specific steps can you take to pause and pray during your busiest days?
- 5. How might embracing God's peace change your approach to challenges in your role?



# Week 42 – Planning with Open Hands

Weekly Focus Verse:

"Come now, you who say, 'Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town...'—yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring... Instead, you ought to say, 'If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that." – James 4:13–15 (ESV)

#### Reflection

By this point in the summer, your whiteboard is likely filled with timelines, team goals, and strategic initiatives. The months ahead are mapped out. Schedules are layered, and tasks are moving from abstract to urgent. But James reminds us of something easily forgotten in higher education leadership: **we do not control tomorrow.** You can lay out a perfect plan, and it can unravel by noon.

Planning is not the problem. **Presumption is.** We often forget to leave space for God to move—and to interrupt. It's not faith to build a flawless calendar that leaves no room for course correction from the Holy Spirit. So how do you lead with wisdom and plan with integrity—while still holding it all loosely? You start with open hands. You approach your to-do list like a servant, not a CEO. You remember that success is not completing every task—it's being faithful to follow God's direction each day, even when it diverges from your outline.

This week, pause as you look at your strategic plan. Re-surrender. Ask God to overwrite anything that isn't aligned with His will—even if it costs time, funding, or momentum. After all, if God's not in it, it's not worth doing.

#### Daily Scripture Readings

Day Scripture Focus

Mon James 4:13–15 A humble posture in planning

Tue Luke 14:28–30 The value of wise planning

Wed Proverbs 16:9 God directs your steps

**Thu** Psalm 127:1–2 Unless the Lord builds it...

Fri Isaiah 30:21 Listening for God's voice behind your plans

Sat Jeremiah 10:23 It's not in man to direct his own steps

Sun Ephesians 2:10 God has prepared works for you to walk in



Father, You already know what this upcoming year holds. I confess that I sometimes rely more on strategy than on the Spirit. Help me plan with wisdom, but hold everything with open hands. If there's anything in my calendar that doesn't align with Your will—remove it. Let my leadership be Spirit-led, not self-driven. I trust You to guide every step. In Jesus' name, amen.



# Week 42 – Planning with Open Hands

- 1. What does "resting in God's presence" look like for you during a hectic day?
- 2. In what ways can you create space to be still and listen to God amid your responsibilities?
- 3. How have you seen God provide strength when you felt weary?
- 4. Are there burdens you're currently carrying that you need to surrender to God?
- 5. How can you encourage your team to find rest and renewal in God as well?



### Week 43 – Rest Is Leadership Too

Weekly Focus Verse:

"My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." – Exodus 33:14 (ESV)

#### Reflection

Leaders in intercollegiate athletics often wear busyness as a badge of honor. Long days and constant availability are expected. Rest? That's for the offseason... or someone else. But Scripture tells a different story.

In Exodus 33, God makes a promise to Moses: "My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." This wasn't a command to stop working—it was a reminder that rest isn't optional for God's people. It's sacred. It's leadership, God's way. The temptation this month might be to squeeze in just one more trip, one more meeting, one more facility walk-through. But what if the most strategic move you make this June is to rest?

Rest is more than sleep or vacation. It's a declaration: "God, I trust You to run this department while I slow down." That kind of trust preaches louder than any memo. Jesus Himself regularly withdrew from the crowds to be alone with the Father (Luke 5:16). Not because He was weak, but because He was wise. Shouldn't we do the same? If your soul is always on the edge of exhaustion, your leadership will eventually reflect it. But if you practice rhythms of rest and renewal—especially now—you'll lead from a place of spiritual health when the pressure comes.

### Daily Scripture Readings

Day	Scripture	Focus
Mon	Exodus 33:12–14	God's presence and promised rest
Tue	Mark 6:31	Jesus invites His followers to rest
Wed	Genesis 2:1–3	God Himself rested after creation
Thu	Psalm 23:1–3	He restores my soul
Fri	Hebrews 4:9–11	There remains a Sabbath rest
Sat	Matthew 11:28–30	Rest for the weary and burdened
Sun	Luke 5:15–16	Jesus withdrew to pray and rest

### **A** Prayer

Lord, I confess I often avoid rest because I fear falling behind. But You are not asking me to do this job alone or at an unsustainable pace. Thank You for modeling rest and inviting me into it. Help me slow down, create space to listen, and find peace in Your presence. Show me how to build rhythms of rest into my leadership. I trust You with the things I'm leaving undone. In Jesus' name, amen.



### Week 43 – Rest Is Leadership Too

- 1. How does knowing that God is your refuge impact the way you face stress at work?
- 2. When have you experienced God's protection during difficult decisions?
- 3. What practical habits can you develop to seek refuge in God daily?
- 4. How can trusting in God's shelter influence your leadership style?
- 5. Who in your life can you encourage with the truth that God is a refuge in times of trouble?



### Week 44 – Your Identity Is Not the Job

Weekly Focus Verse:

"I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me." – Galatians 2:20 (ESV)

#### Reflection

You are introduced by your title. You are judged by your record. You are measured by wins, budgets, hires, and public perception. But none of these define who you are. Athletic directors don't get the luxury of anonymity. Your leadership is public, your decisions are scrutinized, and your name is often the one credited—or blamed. In this world, it's dangerously easy to believe the lie: "I am what I do."

But Galatians 2:20 reminds us of the deeper truth. Your identity is not rooted in your resume, your campus role, or even your success as a leader. You belong to Christ. And that reality supersedes every line on your bio. When your identity is secure in Jesus, you don't have to live and lead to prove yourself. You can lead with humility, make hard decisions without fear, and face criticism without losing your footing.

It also means you're not defined by failure. God sees you through the finished work of Jesus—not your last hire or athletic fundraising goals. Recenter yourself in the Gospel. You are not your job. You are not your metrics. You are a child of God—chosen, equipped, and deeply loved.

#### Daily Scripture Readings

Day Scripture Focus

Mon Galatians 2:20 Identity in Christ alone Tue John 15:5 Abiding, not achieving Wed Romans 8:14–17 You are a child of God

**Thu** Colossians 3:1–4 Set your heart on things above

Fri Philippians 3:7–9 Counting worldly success as loss

Sat Psalm 139:13–16 You are wonderfully made with purpose

Sun Ephesians 2:8–10 You are God's workmanship, created for good works

## **A** Prayer

Father, I often let my work define me. I've carried the pressure of proving myself in every meeting, email, and decision. But You remind me that my identity is found in Christ alone. Help me lead from that truth. Let it shape how I treat others, how I handle failure, and how I rest in Your approval. Thank You for calling me Yours before I ever earned a title. In Jesus' name, amen.



## Week 44 – Your Identity Is Not the Job

- 1. How do you currently approach prayer in the midst of your busy schedule?
- 2. In what ways can prayer deepen your connection with God during stressful times?
- 3. What barriers sometimes keep you from praying consistently, and how can you overcome them?
- 4. How has prayer shaped your leadership decisions and attitudes?
- 5. Who can you pray for this week that might also be experiencing stress or discouragement?



#### Week 45 – *Lead Without Fear*

Weekly Focus Verse:

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." – Joshua 1:9 (ESV)

#### Reflection

As the summer continues, so does the low hum of anxiety: Are we ready for the fall? Did we prepare enough? Will this year be better or harder?

Leadership can quickly shift from confident planning to fear-driven management. Athletic directors face pressure from above, below, and all sides—and some of that pressure whispers fear into your leadership: What if this doesn't work? What if I fail? What if they blame me?

But God's word to Joshua—who also carried the burden of leadership—is His word to you: "Be strong and courageous... the Lord your God is with you."

Courage doesn't come from your qualifications. It comes from knowing God walks into every meeting, every conflict, and every season with you. And His presence changes everything.

You don't have to make perfect decisions this year. You just have to be faithful. When your courage comes from the presence of God—not the confidence of your own plans—you can lead boldly, love well, and respond to fear with faith.

#### Daily Scripture Readings

Day	Scripture	Focus
Mon	Joshua 1:1–9	God's charge to courageous leaders
Tue	Psalm 27:1	Whom shall I fear?
Wed	1 2 Timothy 1:7	Spirit of power, love, and self-control
Thu	Isaiah 41:10	Fear not, for I am with you
Fri	Romans 8:31–39	Nothing can separate you from His love
Sat	Exodus 14:13–14	The Lord will fight for you
Sun	Deuteronomy 31:6	He will not leave you or forsake you

## **A** Prayer

Father, You know the fears I carry into this month—the unknowns, the pressures, the hidden doubts. Thank You for the reminder that I do not lead alone. Give me courage, not because I'm strong, but because You are with me. Help me walk in bold obedience, rooted in Your presence. In Jesus' name, amen.



#### Week 45 – *Lead Without Fear*

- 1. What does it mean for you to seek God's guidance in your leadership decisions this week?
- 2. How have you experienced God's wisdom at work in your role before?
- 3. Are there current decisions where you feel you need extra discernment? How can you invite God into those?
- 4. How can you foster a culture of seeking God's wisdom among your staff and coaches?
- 5. What practices can help you stay connected to God's guidance during busy or stressful days?



### Week 46 – *Trusting God with the Road Ahead*

Weekly Focus Verse:

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths." – Proverbs 3:5–6 (ESV)

#### Reflection

It's easy to feel pressure to have all the answers by this point in the year. Questions about staffing, facility needs, fundraising, preseason preparations, and departmental direction are pressing in. You're expected to forecast clearly, decide confidently, and move swiftly. But leadership in God's kingdom doesn't start with certainty. It starts with trust.

Proverbs 3 doesn't say, "Figure it all out." It says, "Trust in the Lord... and do not lean on your own understanding." You're not called to have every step planned—you're called to trust the One who does.

Trusting God doesn't mean abandoning strategic thinking. It means *submitting* your strategies to Him. It means praying through decisions, inviting spiritual wisdom into meetings, and being open to divine detours. God doesn't promise ease—but He promises direction. He may not show you the full map, but He'll give you the next faithful step. And sometimes, that's all you need.

This week, ask yourself: Am I leaning on understanding or leaning on God?

#### **■** Daily Scripture Readings

#### Day Scripture Focus

Mon Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust and direction from God

**Tue** Psalm 25:4–5 Teach me Your paths, O Lord

Wed Isaiah 30:21 Hearing God's voice behind you

**Thu** James 1:5–6 Ask for wisdom in faith

Fri John 10:27 My sheep hear My voice

Sat Psalm 119:105 God's Word as a lamp for your feet

**Sun** Romans 12:2 Discern the will of God by renewing your mind



Lord, I often want control more than I want communion. I confess how easily I lean on my own experience, logic, or instincts. But this week, I want to lead differently. Help me trust You with every plan. Guide my steps clearly, and quiet the noise that clouds my discernment. I surrender my understanding to Your wisdom. In Jesus' name, amen.



## Week 46 – Trusting God with the Road Ahead

- 1. How do you define humility in your leadership role?
- 2. Can you recall a time when leading with humility made a difference in your team's dynamics?
- 3. What challenges do you face in practicing servant leadership, and how might you overcome them?
- 4. How can you model humility and service to encourage those you lead?
- 5. In what ways does embracing humility deepen your relationship with God?



### Week 47 – *The Power of Presence*

Weekly Focus Verse:

"Be still, and know that I am God." – Psalm 46:10 (ESV)

### Reflection

Summer often feels like the calm before the storm—but only on the surface. Beneath the slower campus pace, your internal engine might already be revving. Fall is coming. Football and other fall sports are close. Calendars are filling. Decisions are stacking up. It's easy to let your leadership become all motion, all momentum. But Scripture cuts through the noise: "Be still."

Stillness doesn't mean idleness. It means intentional slowing. It means quieting your heart enough to know that God is still God—even if your plans stall, your team struggles, or your to-do list overflows.

Athletic directors often feel pressure to always be present for everyone else—coaches, staff, donors, presidents. But what about *being present* with God? The most powerful thing you can do this week may not be a decision, but a pause. Stillness is an act of faith. It says, "God, You're holding this department, not me."

Before the year ramps up, spend time in stillness—not just for your peace, but for your clarity, conviction, and confidence in Christ.

#### Daily Scripture Readings

Day	Scripture	Focus
Mon	Psalm 46:10–11	God's command to be still
Tue	Mark 1:35	Jesus rises early to pray alone
Wed	1 Kings 19:11–13	God speaks not in fire but in a whisper
Thu	Psalm 62:1–2	Rest and salvation come from Him alone
Fri	Isaiah 26:3	Perfect peace for those who trust Him
Sat	Matthew 6:6	Secret prayer in the quiet place
Sun	Lamentations 3:25–26	Waiting quietly for the Lord's salvation

## **A** Prayer

Father, in a world that values constant motion, help me choose stillness. Not because I'm avoiding work—but because I'm drawing close to You. Teach me how to sit quietly before You. Help me resist the urge to rush ahead or fix everything on my own. Let my leadership this year be marked by Your presence, not just my productivity. In Jesus' name, amen.



### Week 47 – *The Power of Presence*

- 1. When has God's strength been most evident to you in times of weakness?
- 2. How can you embrace your weaknesses as opportunities for God's power to show?
- 3. What areas of your leadership feel the most challenging right now, and how can you invite God's grace into them?
- 4. How might acknowledging your dependence on God impact your decisions and relationships?
- 5. Who can you encourage by sharing your journey of relying on God's strength?



#### Week 48 – Surrendering Control

Weekly Focus Verse:

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths." – Proverbs 3:5–6 (ESV)

#### Reflection

As summer nears a close, the pressures of upcoming fall sports, media attention, staffing changes, and endless meetings are likely still cluttering your mind. You might feel the tension of needing everything to be perfect, to stay in control, and to anticipate every challenge.

But God reminds you through Proverbs 3 that true leadership isn't about controlling every variable. It's about *trusting*—with your whole heart—that He will guide your path, even when it feels uncertain.

Surrender isn't weakness. It's the strongest move a leader can make. Letting go of the illusion that you have it all figured out opens you to God's guidance, provision, and peace.

This week, instead of pushing harder, try surrendering deeper. Trust that God is already ahead of you, working all things for good—even when you can't see the whole picture.

### Daily Scripture Readings

Day	Scripture	Focus
Mon	Proverbs 3:5–6	Trusting God fully
Tue	Psalm 46:10	Be still and know God is in control
Wed	Jeremiah 29:11	God's plans for hope and future
Thu	<i>Romans 8:28</i>	God works all things for good
Fri	Philippians 4:6–7	Peace that guards your heart
Sat	Isaiah 40:31	Those who wait on the Lord renew strength
Sun	Matthew 11:28–30	Rest for the weary and burdened

## **A** Prayer

Lord, I want to hold tightly to my plans, but I know You call me to trust You completely. Help me release control, lean into Your guidance, and find peace in Your sovereignty. When the pressure rises, remind me that You are already at work. I surrender this week, this year, and this leadership to You. In Jesus' name, amen.



### Week 48 – Surrendering Control

- 1. How do you currently experience God's peace during times of pressure?
- 2. What distractions most often steal your peace, and how can you guard against them?
- 3. In what ways can you cultivate a habit of pausing and resting in God's presence each day?
- 4. How can your personal peace influence the culture of your athletic department?
- 5. What scriptures or prayers help you find peace when you feel overwhelmed?



### Week 49 – Leading Through the Unknown

Weekly Focus Verse:

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."

—Psalm 119:105 (ESV)

#### Reflection

Athletic directors frequently face uncharted territory—realignment decisions, shifting campus dynamics, or sudden leadership transitions. In those moments, the next step may feel unclear. Psalm 119:105 reminds us that God's Word is not a spotlight illuminating every twist and turn, but a lamp that lights just the next step. It requires trust. The pressure to appear decisive and confident can weigh heavily, but God calls you to lean on Him, even when the road ahead is foggy.



Lord, I'm used to planning, preparing, and pushing forward. But sometimes I can't see what's next. When I feel lost or unsure, remind me that You are guiding me. Help me to trust that Your Word is enough to illuminate the step I need to take today. Give me peace when the big picture is hidden, and confidence that You are already there. Amen.

#### Daily Scripture Readings

Day	Scripture	Focus
Mon	Psalm 119:105-112	God's Word provides steady guidance when the path ahead is unclear
Tue	Proverbs 3:5-6	Trusting God fully makes the way clearer even when life feels chaotic
Wed	Isaiah 42:16	God leads us down unfamiliar roads and never forsakes us in the journey
Thu	James 1:5	You don't have to have all the answers. Ask God for wisdom.
Fri	Romans 8:28	Even uncertain paths are part of God's greater plan.
Sat	Exodus 13:21-22	God led Israel with a cloud and fire. His guidance is faithful and daily.
Sun	John 14:26	The Holy Spirit teaches and reminds you of Jesus' words. You are not alone.



## Week 49 – Leading Through the Unknown

- 1. When was the last time you felt unsure of your next step as a leader?
- 2. How does God's Word provide clarity in confusing situations?
- 3. What does it practically look like to lead with faith when the outcome is unknown?
- 4. Who can you talk to when you need godly wisdom and counsel?
- 5. In what areas of your role do you need to trust God more this week?



### Week 50 – *The Ministry of Availability*

Weekly Focus Verse:

"Here I am! I stand at the door and knock."

—Revelation 3:20a (NIV)

#### Reflection

As an AD, your days are packed with meetings, decisions, and high-stakes issues. But leadership in God's kingdom often starts with simple availability—being fully present with your staff, student-athletes, and even strangers. Jesus models this with His constant presence and invitation. His impact didn't always come from the big stage but through moments of listening, healing, and responding. Don't underestimate the ministry of showing up and being available.



Jesus, help me to slow down and be present. Let me not be so consumed by my calendar that I miss Your quiet invitations throughout my day. Teach me to listen better, love deeper, and lead from a posture of availability. Thank You for always making Yourself available to me. Amen.

#### Daily Scripture Readings

Day	Scripture	Focus
Mon	Revelation 3:20	Jesus patiently knocks. Are you available to welcome Him today?
Tue	Luke 10:38-42	Mary chose presence over pressure. What is your posture before the Lord?
Wed	Mark 5:21-34	Jesus noticed the one in the crowd. Slow down and see who's around you.
Thu	1 Samuel 3:1-10	Samuel's availability made space to hear God clearly. Are you listening?
Fri	Philippians 2:3-4	Humility makes us present to the needs of others.
Sat	Matthew 19:13-15	Jesus made time for children when others saw them as interruptions.
Sun	Psalm 46:10	"Be still and know that I am God." Presence starts with stillness.



## Week 50 – *The Ministry of Availability*

- 1. How do you typically respond when your schedule gets interrupted?
- 2. What does availability look like in your leadership role?
- 3. Have you seen fruit from being present and attentive, even when it wasn't "efficient"?
- 4. Who in your department might need more of your presence right now?
- 5. How is God calling you to be more available to Him?



#### Week 51 - Joy in the Mundane

Weekly Focus Verse:

- "And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus."
- —Colossians 3:17 (NIV)

#### Reflection

The off-season or slower months can feel monotonous. Meetings still happen, budgets still need approval, and the energy of game day fades. But in Christ, there is no such thing as mundane. Every task—whether it's fixing a scheduling issue or reviewing a contract—can be done for His glory. Colossians 3 reminds us that purpose is found not in the task itself, but in the One for whom we do it.

## **A** Prayer

Father, thank You for giving purpose to all things, even the routine parts of my job. Help me approach each day with a heart of worship and excellence. Remind me that no task is too small when it's done for You. Fill me with joy even in the ordinary. Amen.

#### Daily Scripture Readings

Day	Scripture	Focus
Mon	Colossians 3:17	Every task can reflect Jesus. Invite Him into even the ordinary.
Tue	Ecclesiastes 3:12–13	Joy is found in simply doing good work. It's a gift from God.
Wed	1 Corinthians 10:31	Whether it's emails or encouragement—do it all for God's glory.
Thu	Philippians 4:11–13	Joy isn't found in excitement—it's found in contentment through Christ.
Fri	Galatians 6:9	Don't give up on doing good—even when no one sees it.
Sat	John 13:12–17	Jesus washed feet. Nothing is beneath the servant-King.
Sun	Psalm 84:10	"Better is one day in Your courts" Even mundane service is better with God.



### Week 51 – *Joy in the Mundane*

- 1. What tasks in your role tend to feel "mundane" or draining?
- 2. How can your mindset shift when you approach these with purpose?
- 3. What does it mean to "do it all in the name of Jesus" practically?
- 4. Are there any disciplines or habits that could make your off-season more meaningful?
- 5. What's one ordinary task this week you want to do with extraordinary faithfulness?



### Week 52 – Faithful to the Finish

Weekly Focus Verse:

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."

—2 Timothy 4:7 (ESV)

#### Reflection

The end of the academic year brings a chance to pause and reflect. Have you kept the faith? Not just in terms of belief—but in the way you led, loved, and endured? Paul's final words to Timothy were not about stats or achievements, but about perseverance. Success in the kingdom is about finishing with faith. As you look back, celebrate God's provision. As you look forward, commit once again to walking with Him in all things.



#### **A** Prayer

God, thank You for sustaining me through another year. When I was weary, You strengthened me. When I doubted, You reminded me of truth. I give You thanks for the people, moments, and lessons along the way. As I prepare for a new chapter, help me stay rooted in You. Let me finish well—not just in work, but in faithfulness. Amen.

#### Daily Scripture Readings

Day	Scripture	Focus
Mon	2 Timothy 4:6–8	Paul's reward wasn't praise but God's approval. What will your legacy be?
Tue	Hebrews 12:1–3	Run your race with endurance. Jesus is both your example and your strength.
Wed	Isaiah 40:29–31	God gives renewed strength to those who wait on Him.
Thu	1 Corinthians 15:58	Your labor is not in vain. Keep standing firm.
Fri	Psalm 100	Close the year in gratitude. God has been faithful.
Sat	Joshua 1:9	Be strong and courageous. God goes with you into the next season.
Sun	Lamentations 3:22–24	God's mercies are new every morning. Great is His faithfulness.



# Week 52 – Faithful to the Finish

- 1. In what ways did God show up for you this year?
- 2. What challenges stretched your faith the most?
- 3. How can you mark the end of the year in worship and gratitude?
- 4. What does finishing "faithfully" look like in your role?
- 5. How will you recommit to your calling for the next season?