

**BETHEL AME, BOSTON: CORPORATE FAST
DEVOTIONAL – WEEK 2 (JANUARY 9, 2022)**

FASTING AND PRAYER

Focus: “Corporate /church fasting brings unity and a strong awareness for dependence on God.” Pastor Scott Hobbs

Meditative thought: Fasting is an essential of Christian life.

Scripture: Esther 4:14-17

Scripture reflection:

Esther called for a corporate fast when she told Mordecai, “Go and gather together all the Jews of Susa and fast for me.”-vs 16

“Go tell believers at Bethel to come together, even in the midst of a pandemic, and fast for our church.” God is calling members and friends of Bethel to come together, make room for Him in fasting and prayer.

In this crazy time of COVID, Delta, Omicron, injustices, grey winter days, financial upheavals, finding time to sort things out is hard enough, but now God is calling us to purposefully and intentionally set aside time and space to pray and fast.....to be with Him, to hear from Him and seek His face and will.

Esther and her people fasted. Esther risked her life to go before the king (her husband) to plead for mercy for her people, who were doomed to be killed. And because of fasting, prayer and mercy the Jews were saved from annihilation.

Prayer: O Holy One, we come humbly before You understanding Who you are and why You have created us for such a time as this. We need to fast and pray to seek Your face and Your will. We commit this time and space to You. In Jesus name, Amen.

Questions for meditation and reflection:

- 1. How do you make room for God when you pray?**
- 2. How do you make room for God when you fast?**
- 3. What is most challenging for you in making room for God?**
- 4. How can and do you connect with other believers when you fast?**
- 5. How is your individual fast pertinent to a corporate/church fast?**

Additional scriptures for reading and studying:

Daniel 10: 1-3

Ezra 10:16-17

Judges 20:26

II Chron 20: 3-4

Matt. 6:16