

a sending prayer

It has now been about a month since you have arrived home. Likely the emotions, struggles, questions, and angst you were feeling in those first few days after returning have changed and shifted. Perhaps some things have fallen into place for you, you've found your new rhythm and life feels on course. Or perhaps the emotions, struggles, questions, and angst have just changed and are now rooted elsewhere. In either case, our prayer is that however consistently you have journeyed through these guided quiet times, that you have continued to encounter God. Ultimately it is He who guides you, meets your needs, and in whom you find your life. But our continuing prayer for you is that you do just that... that you continue. Continue wrestling through the life of faith (or to use Paul's phrase, "work out" from Philippians 2:12). Eugene Peterson titled one of His books "A Long Obedience in the Same Direction," which in itself is such a beautiful description of what this life of faith is all about.

We hope the resources provided here have been helpful. We've added resources that hopefully help you journey forward on your own. In particular, the "Helps for Reading the Bible" should be a good place to get started in developing your own quiet times, determining what to read and how to structure your time. We hope you've taken us up on the encouragement to dig deep and find community in your home environment, including a mentor and trusted peers. We pray that you continue to foster eyes to see the people and environments around you where God is prodding you to serve. And we pray the following words of Paul over you as you go.

read

Ephesians 3:14-21

reflect and journal

- 1. Looking back at your transition home, what have been your biggest struggles? Does this surprise you? Are you still struggling with these same things?
- 2. Looking back, what have been moments you can say God met you, reassured you, or provided for you? Were you surprised by any of this?
- 3. What have been the most helpful rhythms you have kept up with (or started) since you've come home (doing quiet times, reading Bible, meeting with mentor, going to small group/youth group, praying, journaling, etc.)? What do you need to prioritize to keep this/these rhythms going? Are there any you need to *start* keeping?
- 4. As you look ahead to the next few weeks, months, or the rest of the school year, what are things you feel God prompting you towards? Are there truths He's been revealing to you that He is inviting you to live out of more fully? Are there opportunities He's put in front of you to engage in? Are there relationships that He is encouraging you to pursue?

pray

- Read through the verse above slowly and maybe several times.
- Pray through the ways that this prayer asks God to meet you, equip you, and provide for all you need and more. Can you make these your own requests to the Father?

Coming Home: A Sending Prayer