

Daniel Fast

Daniel 10:2-3

12th January - 1st February
21 days of praying and fasting



Covenant



Kingdom

Join at house of prayer joining the week and a corporate prayer at the church on a Friday, 7:30pm at the Church.

To subscribe for daily emails see the link at the bottom of each page.

Daniel Fasting

At that time I, Daniel, mourned for three weeks. I ate no choice food; no meat or wine touched my lips; and I used no lotions at all until the three weeks were over.

Daniel 10:2-3 NIV

The Daniel Fast as the passage above indicates is a partial fast. We are aware that people approach it differently. Some people decide to have all three meals in a day whilst others may decide to skip meals or have nothing at all on some days. We encourage you to participate at the level that you are able. Please keep in mind the main aim of this fast is to give ourselves to seek the Lord. Those of you who have specific health issues please be wise during the fast.

Practical Guidance

The following are recommended during the fast:

Fruit

Vegetables

Wholemeal rice, pasta

Pulses – lentils, barley etc.

Water

Soup

(Fruit or herbal tea)

(Meat and dairy are avoided)

Remember this is not a legalistic process! We trust that this will be a blessed time for you individually and collectively for us as a Church as we seek God together and learn about Covenant Relationship and Kingdom Rulership.

Introduction

God's 'statement of intent' for humanity:

"Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." **Genesis 1:26 (ESV)**

...seems to reveal a DNA code that runs through the scriptures.

The "Let us" shows the nature of Man (image) and his relationship (likeness) with the Creator and the "Let them" indicates the dominion, rule, stewardship, mandate of Man on earth.

"Let us" provides the grounds for "Let them". Without the 'Let us' there can be no 'Let them'.

These two themes 'Let us' (relationship) and "Let them" (responsibility) are a thread that runs through the Scriptures. Their theological names are Covenant and Kingdom. These two great themes of the Bible – Covenant (the Fatherhood of God) and Kingdom (of God) find their fullest expression in Jesus.

The Covenant relationship is one that God enters into with us **willingly** and **unconditionally**, not based on what we deserve but His grace. The Kingdom relationship is our recognition of, and response to, God's kingship and so allowing His rule on earth.

Guidelines

In these 21 days of praying and fasting, we will explore these two themes as they weave through scriptures. We hope that this booklet will stimulate your appetite to delve into the scriptures yourself.

Each day provides a scripture passage to **READ**; and some truth to **FOCUS** on; background **NOTES**. We suggest that the points to **PONDER** are used as subjects of discussion with the Father (**PRAYER**) in addition to the **PRAYER POINTS**.

We **DECLARE** the truth of God's Word as part of a process of writing on our heart. So grab your bible, notebook and pen and be prepared for the impact that these three weeks will have upon your life.

Symbols



Bible reading



Focus/Memory verse



Questions/Discussion



Prayer points



Boldly proclaim (at least to yourself)



Make a note of what strikes you most

Suggested Further Reading

Breen, Mike. Covenant and Kingdom: The DNA of the Bible. [Kindle Edition]

Day 1 – Designed in God’s image; Destined to represent God



Genesis 1



*Then God said, "Let **us** make man in our image, after our likeness. And let **them** have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."* **Genesis 1:26 (ESV)**

The word translated as "image" also means "imprint." When God created us, He pressed the imprint of His presence upon us. Certainly not in the bodily form since God has no bodily form, and the man's body was formed from the dust of the ground. We were the pinnacle, the high point of all that He had made. He wanted to tie our identity to His.

Adam and Eve and all successive generations of human beings were designed and destined to be God’s representatives on earth.



My view of who I am is the greatest commentary on my view of God. How do I see myself?

Is my view of who I am the same as God’s view of me?

Do I really see God as He has presented Himself or as someone else has presented Him to me?



Thank the Father for making us partakers of His divine nature.

Ask the Father to unveil the truth of His divine nature to us so that we will be rooted and established in it, living experientially in its reality.



I have the nature of God. I am fearfully and wonderfully made.



Day 2 – The Fall



Genesis 3



But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?"
Genesis 3:9 (ESV)

"The Fall" was the greatest tragedy ever and its effects were (and still are) devastating:

- Sin entered the world.
- Death through sin.
- Man became ruled by senses (carnal) - their eyes were opened and they became aware of their nakedness.
- Man experienced shame, lack and resorted to self-help – "they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths."

We are confronted with two quite different perspectives on God's character - tenderness and severity. Tenderness in the way that God made clothes for Adam and Eve. Severity in the way that He dealt with their rebellion by banishing them from His presence and cutting them off from the source of their eternal life with Him.



Estranged but still loved by God - God's love for His lost children overcomes His repulsion of their sinfulness. His plan for a new relationship begins to unfold. To unfold His plan, God decides to "start again."



Thank God for the extent of His unconditional love for all of humanity (Romans 5:8)

Use (Ephesians 3:14-19) to pray for yourself, friends, family neighbours and colleagues – strength with power in the spirit to grasp the magnitude of God's unconditional love.



The Father loves me. I choose to live in the unconditional and everlasting love of the Father.



Day 3 – Abram believed God



Genesis 15



Abram believed the LORD, and He credited it to him as righteousness
Genesis 15:6 (NIV)

God spoke to Abram, and Abram received what was spoken—and it became faith in His heart. From a biblical point of view, faith to believe God comes from listening to God speak to us.

Because of His faith, God gave Abram the gift of a relationship with Him. Literally, God gave Abram “righteousness”—or a “right relationship” where no “wrong” could spoil it. This had to be given by God as a gift (grace). Abram could not have it by any right or effort of His own. God had extended an invitation to Abram: an invitation to a journey that would lead all the way back to the Garden of Eden.

The two were no longer alienated. They would walk together always, and would know each other in the deep communion of Covenant. The necessary acceptance and commitment had taken place within Abram’s heart and mind, but God took what was hidden and revealed it. He confirmed it in blood and death.



As a Believer, do I believe that one day, with much effort and striving, I will eventually please God? Or do I believe that He is already pleased with me in Christ? (Ephesians 2:8-9)



Thank God for the gift of righteousness.

Pray (Ephesians 1:17-18) that our hearts will be flooded with light so that we can be rooted and grounded in the truth (of His righteousness by faith).



As a Believer, I am the righteousness of God in Christ.

Day 4 – Joseph: The Call to Rule



Genesis 37 & 39



*And the Lord was with Joseph, and he was a prosperous man. **Genesis 39:2 (KJV)***

In the life of Joseph, we see for the first time something of what the “rule” of God would be like when working through a chosen representative. In the same way that we saw God refashioning a relationship with humankind through Abraham, in Joseph we see God re-launching His plan for human representation in the world.

Covenant refers to relationship. Kingdom refers to responsibility. Covenant is about identity and obedience. Kingdom (Kingship) is about authority and power.



IF because of Adam’s trespass, death reigned through that ONE man, how much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the ONE man Jesus Christ. (Romans 5:17)



Thank the Father for seating us together with Christ in the heavenly realms, far above principality and power. (Ephesians 2:4-7)

Father, I ask you to give me a revelation of this truth and to show me areas in my life where I can exercise the authority that comes with my royalty in Christ Jesus.



I am of royal priesthood.



Day 5 – Moses – Prince and Priest



Exodus 2 & 3



By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. Hebrews 11:24-25 (ESV)

In the life of Moses we can see what happens when Covenant and Kingdom combine.

Perhaps the wounds of exile had healed in Moses, but the scars remained. His anger, guilt and sense of loss may have subsided, but the underlying anxiety and insecurity caused by his disconnection from his blood family and heritage continued. However, God knew Moses' name and now addressed him as one with a heritage going back to Abraham.

Moses heard God confirm his identity. In time, his confidence grew, and his long-dormant capacity to lead emerged. Identity is always given from the outside before it becomes reality on the inside.

The Covenant includes protection and provision. The Lord had heard the call for help and would keep His end of the bargain by rescuing His people and giving them a new land, the land He had promised to Abraham and Sarah. He now wanted to use Moses to fulfil these obligations. Moses had a destiny, a calling, and God had now revealed it to him.

But Moses wanted the Lord to send someone else, believing that someone else would be better than him.



Is God calling you?
Who is He calling you to?



Thank the Father for choosing us before the foundation of the world for His purpose. (Ephesians 2:10)

<http://iic.io/1o>

Pray for clarity, boldness and guidance in what God has commissioned you to do.



I am the workmanship of God, created for good works, which God has preordained for me.



Day 6 – David – Worshipper & Warrior



1 Samuel 17



'I have found in David the son of Jesse a man after my heart, who will do all my will.' **Acts 13:22 (ESV)**

David's heart was fashioned in the light of a Covenant Relationship with the Lord. This was the rich resource in David's song writing and the solid foundation on which he built a life of purpose. The security that came from his walk with God first bred confidence, and then, an incredible courage as he sought to extend the Lord's Kingdom rule.

David's Covenant confidence and Kingdom courage could be seen even at an early age in confronting Goliath.



Do we have the Covenant confidence that David showed, as we face the giants in our lives?

Are we able to stand on the security God gives us, or do we cower among the crowd, hoping for others to offer us help and protection?

Are we tempted to wear someone else's armour?

What can we carry in our pocket that could bring down a giant?



Thank the Father for the access that we have to Him and the intimacy that we can enjoy through the new Covenant established by the blood of Christ.

Holy Spirit, help us to know the Father and to continue to grow in the intimate knowledge of Him.



I am in Christ and a beneficiary of the New Covenant. God is my Father and I am His son.



Day 7 – Connecting the Old and the New



Matthew 1 & 2



*For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. **Isaiah 9:6 (ESV)***

These two great themes of the Bible – Kingdom and Covenant - find their fullest expression in Jesus. Only when we look at Him are we able to grasp their complete meaning. For example, in the Gospels, Jesus is given many titles, but perhaps the two most important are **Son of God** and **Son of Man**.

Son of Man is the most common title that Jesus uses for Himself and Son of God, though acknowledged by Jesus of Himself, is more often the way in which others described Him.

The “Son of God” is fully identified with God and shares His nature. When He describes Himself as the “Son of Man,” He appears to be referring to His role as the representative of God’s Kingship in the world. (Mark 13:26) “Son of Man” indicates His humanity and that He came to restore humanity’s role to rule on God’s behalf.

Naturally, the two themes are woven throughout the Gospels, although each writer has different emphasis. The Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke focus on how the Kingdom of God invades our lives in the person of Jesus. They emphasize His ministry to the crowds in Galilee. They record His call to the disciples to represent the King. He offers hope to the masses as He preaches and proves that the King of heaven is among them. John’s Gospel focuses on the Covenant and becoming one with God. The Gospel records how Jesus taught His followers to enter a Covenant relationship with Him so that they could become one with their Father. Although, these strong emphases differentiate the Gospels, both themes are clearly revealed in all four.



Have I received the right to become a child of God? (John 1:12-13)



Thank the Father for offering His son to bring us to Him as His children.

Father, enlighten our hearts so that we can understand how to reflect Jesus Christ in every area of life.

Father, help us to live as worthy representatives of your household and great ambassadors of your Kingdom.



I am an ambassador of the Kingdom of God on this earth.



Day 8 – Son of Man & Son of God



John 1:1-18



And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

John 1:14

The dual nature of Jesus Christ as both God and man is a central truth presented in the Bible. While most Christians have no difficulty accepting Jesus as the Son of God and rightly so because the Scriptures proclaim Him so, some find it hard to see Him as a human being like themselves. Most of us have no problems believing the accounts of His miracles – healing the sick, opening the eyes of the blind, unstopping deaf ears and raising the dead - it is the idea that He experienced disappointments, dealt with temptations, felt some vulnerabilities, faced rejection and betrayal, experiences common to us as human beings, that some of us struggle to understand. The truth as presented in the Bible is that He walked the earth as the Son of God and the Son of Man. As our focus verse declares, “The word (Jesus Christ) became flesh and He dwelt among us”



Son of Man - He became like us

- How did he?
 - Why is it significant that He became like us?
 - How does it make you feel to know Jesus experienced life as we do? (Hebrews 4:15)
- Read (Philippians 2:6-11)

Son of God - We became like Him

Re-read (John 1:12-13)

- What do you notice is the Covenant exchange?
- What access and authority did Jesus have as Son of God?
- What access do we have as children of God?
- How are you living as a child of God?

- In what areas do you feel you are not living as a child of God?
(Hebrews 4:16)

- How are you reflecting your sonship to others?
(2 Corinthians 3:15-18)

Have I received the right to become a child of God? (John 1:12-13)



Thank God that Jesus became like us.

Thank God for the power of the Covenant exchange.

Thank God for the access and the identity you have as a son.

- Ask God to identify areas where you need to live as a son? Are there any areas of your mind that need transforming?

- Pray for each other that we may shine His glory to others.



I am a child of God. I have access to the Father as Jesus did. I am accepted by God through the Covenant exchange.



Focus on an area of your identity as a son that you struggle with and allow the Holy Spirit to guide you into truth. (Read passages related to this)

Day 9 – Covenant Baptism - He died - we died



Matthew 3:13-17 & Romans 6:1-10



*Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?⁴ Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. **Romans 1:3-4***

In submitting to baptism, Jesus was offering to represent us in the Covenant exchange. He was prepared to embrace our estranged condition and its full consequence of death.

Our life of discipleship begins in Covenant and Kingdom of which baptism is the first sign. Thereafter, we should expect that the heavens are open above us and that the Kingship of God flows through our lives. And we should live in the full confidence that we are sons and daughters of the King whom we know intimately as Father.



Have you been baptised?

Share briefly your experience of baptism.

Why is baptism so important?

How are you living out the Covenant you entered into through baptism?



Thank God that He desires to work through you.

Thank God for the people you are going to be a conduit to this week

Thank God through baptism that you have entered into a Covenant with Him.

Kingdom Channel

“The heavens were rent and the two worlds were connected as the Holy Spirit descended and remained on Jesus. The Holy Spirit had connected this world with the world to come as in that moment Jesus became the portal of the Kingdom of heaven.” (Mike Breen)

What is now available to us through Christ opening the heavens and connecting them to earth?

Use Isaiah 61:1-5; Luke 4:18-19 and John 3:16 (to help list what Christ made available)

Kingdom living - (Read Acts 1:8-10)

- A channel is a means by which the Kingdom can flow through.
- How can you/we be a channel of the Kingdom?

Give yourself 5-10 minutes to hear God related to the question below

- Ask God for a specific way He wants you to be a conduit to someone else this week?

This could be for one of the following:

- Neighbours
- Friends
- Family
- Work colleagues
- Within the church

- Share in the group what you intend to do so you are accountable to them?



I have been baptized into Christ. When He died, my sinful nature died. When He was raised, I was raised too into a new life. I live a glorious new life. Through me, the Kingdom of God is manifested in my world.



Day 10 – Law versus Grace



Luke 15:11-32



*But the father said to His servants, 'Bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet. And bring the fatted calf here and kill it, and let us eat and be merry; for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' And they began to be merry. **Luke 15:22-24***

The account in our bible passage today is a vivid illustration of the grace of God – His undeserved favour. In the story, we see the younger son leaving his father's house and squandering his inheritance. After there was nothing left to squander, he came to his senses and decided to return home to his father. In his mind he had sinned greatly against God and his father and judged that he no longer deserved to be called a son. Upon his return the father embraces him and welcomes him home, not as a servant as he had hoped, but still as a son, all his sins forgiven. But the elder son, who has a "slave mentality," cannot bring himself to celebrate. Sometimes as Christians we can have a slave rather than a son mentality. *Sonship includes both male and female.* (Please remember the actions of the lost son were not right either)



Characteristics of someone living their Christian life with a slave mentality (Use the sons in the story to help)

Characteristics of someone living their Christian life as a son

Read (Galatians 4:21- 5:1; 5:13-14)

Slave

Performance mentality
Please master
Feel guilty, shame, condemnation
Not worthy
Bondage to rules and regulations
Religious observance

Son

Chosen
Born of divine promise
Accepted
Righteous in Christ
Free
Relationship

Discipleship is a journey in which we can still struggle to live in the fullness of our sonship.

- Does any area stick out that requires attention?

- Are you living by laws? Or by the power of the Spirit?
- Are you living with a relational mentality?
- How are you using your freedom?



- Thank God that He loves you even when you have made mistakes.

- Thank God that He transformed you from a slave to live free.
- Thank God that you are no longer under law but grace!
- Ask God to help you identify and remove any slave mentality in any area of your life.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to give you revelation of your freedom.



"It is for freedom that Christ has set us/me free. We will stand firm, and not let ourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery."
(Galatians 5:1).



List areas of freedom you are enjoying in Christ

List areas in which you desire to experience freedom in Christ

Day 11 – Portals of Power



Luke 4:1-21



“The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed; To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord. Luke 4:18, 19

Discovering our Identity in Christ moves us from being filled with the Spirit to moving in the power of the Spirit. The devil attempts to stop us moving in the power of God by undermining our identity in Christ and putting doubts into our minds as to whether God can use somebody like me. If He tried this with Jesus He will try it with you and I!

We must stand in the truth of what God says and not be overcome by self doubt and negative feelings and fears. (Romans 8:15-17; 2 Timothy 1:7)

Notice Jesus went in to the desert – full of the Spirit and came out in the power of the Spirit. It shows the value and power of prayer and fasting. This highlights the dynamic force available when the Spirit and the Word come together – not one without the other.

Challenging Identity in Christ

If you are sons of God

Pride – prove you are worthy

Challenge to your authority

Knowing the Truth

I am a child of God. (Galatians 3: 26)

I am accepted and loved. (Romans 8:35-39)

All authority was given to Jesus which He has transferred to us.



Discuss areas you face a challenge to your identity. Jesus authority came out of His Covenant relationship with the Father. (John 5:19)
How are you living out your Covenant relationship?

When was the last time you prayed for a filling of the Spirit?



Thank God for who you are in Christ.
For the authority that He has given to you.
Pray for each other for a fresh filling.
Ask God to help you exercise your authority.



Thank you God I/we walk in our authority and demolish every argument or lie that Satan may use against the knowledge of God, and I/we take captive every thought of (insert word –e.g. rejection, inadequacy) and make it obedient to Christ.



I will like to be held accountable for:

I will hold..... (insert name) accountable for:

Day 12 – Parables of the Virgins and Talents



Matthew 25:1-13; Matthew 25:14-30



His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.' **Matthew 25:21**

These two parables remind us of the need to be faithful and to always be alert making sure that we live our lives full of God. The parable of the 10 virgins reminds us that we have been given the Holy Spirit – who is the oil of anointing in our lives that keeps us going. In the parable of the talents we are reminded that God has entrusted us with gifts and talents and that we need to use them.



Parable of the 10 Virgins – Matthew 25:1-13

The oil is representative of the presence of God in our lives. Are you living full of the Holy Spirit? (Ephesians 3:18-20)
In what areas is God directing you to remain alert?
How can we be agents of light to others around us?

Parable of the Talents – Matthew 25:14-30

Do you know what your spiritual and practical gifts are? (Romans 12:3-8; 1 Corinthians 12:4 -14; Ephesians 4:11) etc Ask someone within the group what they think.

How are you using your talents? What does this look like for you in IIC and the broader body of Christ?

What have you buried that needs to be used?

Is there any area in your life that God is asking you to take a risk on Him?



Thank God for the Holy Spirit – that He is your helper.

Thank God for each other's practical gifts.

Thank God for each other's Spiritual gifts.

Ask God for wisdom in what areas and how He wants you to use them in your: Family, Everyday tasks & Church.



I declare that the gifts of the Holy Spirit in me would not be dominant but be active for the Kingdom.



List your gifts and think about where/how they can be used.

Day 13 – Recognising the Seasons of Life



John 15:1-17



*By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples. **John 15:8***

In the world around us we go through all of the different seasons: spring, summer, autumn and winter. Each of these seasons has their distinctive characteristics and the way we approach summer in the clothes we wear is very different to our approach in winter. In our spiritual lives we go through the same seasons. The key as we walk the Christian journey is to identify the season we are in so we can prepare accordingly. Throughout (John 15) the seasons are represented through – abiding, pruning, growing and fruitfulness.

Abide – This is a season when it is key to focus on the character of God – His faithfulness and strength when we are weary.

- Take time to listen to some worship music.
- Rest in God's presence.
- Read over a short verse of encouragement (Psalms are good for this.)
- Read over the passage several times and allow the truth to sink in.
- Write down areas God has been faithful in the past.

Psalm 46:1 - God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.
Matthew 11:28 - Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.

Pruning – Is a phase where God is cutting back to enlarge your capacity. In this season He will reveal areas of your heart that need healing or attitudes you did not realise you had will surface. Running harder and faster is not the order of the day – resting/abiding is. (Please refer to abiding above)

Growing – This is an exciting season where you are growing rapidly and are excited about all the things of God. This is the time to think about instilling new rhythms of prayer and deeper reading of the Bible.

- Take time to create new rhythms of prayer.
- Go deeper into the Bible – read/listen more.
- Write down new areas God may be calling you into.
- Expand your territory.

Isaiah 54 v 2 'Enlarge the place of your tent, stretch your tent curtains wide, do not hold back; lengthen your cords, strengthen your stakes.'

Fruitfulness – This is a season where things that you have been working towards come to pass.



Read through the passage and try to identify which season you are. Remember we will all go through all of the seasons.

Take time to share which season they are in. (Do not rush this)



Thank God that you are His disciple.

Thank God for the season that you are in.

Thank God for each other and how you can support one another in each season.

Receive grace and strength.



I declare that I abide in the vine and I bear fruit that will last.



Write some actions you need to take according to the season you are in.

Day 14 – The Kingdom of Miracles



Luke 4:31 – 5:11



*When the sun was setting, all those who had any that were sick with various diseases brought them to Him; and He laid His hands on every one of them and healed them. **Luke 4:40***

The Kingdom of God that we are part of is not just a natural Kingdom but a supernatural Kingdom. As His disciples we are encouraged that He will use us in miraculous ways to evidence His King-Ship. The supernatural is a way of pointing people to the fact that God loves and cares about them. Jesus walked in this in an everyday way and wants us to walk in this power as an evidence of the Kingdom of God breaking into people's lives to bring transformation. He desires that every believer walks in this too.

Miracles

Deliverance – (Luke 4:31-36) – Jesus had authority to cast out demons.

Healing - (Luke 4:38-41) – Jesus' healing revealed the Kingdom and who He was.

Multiplication- (Luke 5:1-11) – The miracle of multiplication pointed the disciples to a different Kingdom.



Reflect on Mark 16:17-18

"These signs will accompany those who have believed: in My name they will cast out demons, they will speak with new tongues; they will pick up serpents, and if they drink any deadly poison, it will not hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."

Kingdom Call

Spread the Gospel (Luke 4:43-44) – Jesus mandate was to preach the Good News of the Kingdom of God.

Fish for people (Luke 5:10-11) – We are all called to tell people about the King and His Kingdom.

PRAYER

Thank God He has chosen you to reach others (2 Corinthians 5:14-21).

(Remember please be sensitive)

Ask God to open the eyes of your understanding to the supernatural
Pray for someone who is sick because the prayer of faith is effective.

Ask God to give you a picture of someone He wants you to pray for – then go and do it!



I am a disciple of Jesus. As a disciple I exercise my authority to cast out demons and heal the sick in His name.



List people God is laying on your heart to pray for, visit etc.

Day 15 – Retreat, Reflection and Revelation



Matthew 15:32-39; Matthew 16:13

In today's fast-paced world – fast cars, fast food, speedy customer service, instant messaging and their likes – instant gratification and impatience are often regarded as values not vices. Waiting for things is certainly not trendy in today's world, the idea of the patient dog eating the fattest bone is now very old-fashioned. As it is often with Kingdom of God, God's expectation is diametrically opposed to this idea. Appreciating, understanding and becoming rooted in Kingdom truths is a process that takes time. Yes, heaven is eager to see us living in its glorious truths but not without us taking time away from the cares of this world and reflecting upon those truths. It is during the process of retreating and reflection that Kingdom truths become clearer. The world asks us to get busy and run in a thousand directions, God's spirit bids us gently to rest and spend good time ruminating on the wonderful truths of His Kingdom.



Kingdom

Jesus Christ Is Messiah –
Kingship and representation.

Covenant

Jesus Christ is the son of God –
Covenant relationship.
Our identity is changed as we confess
the Lordship of Jesus just even as
Peter's identity was changed to 'a rock',
a similar description of Jesus' revelation
as Cornerstone.



The Lord changed the name of Simon to Peter. How does this change of name reflect a new Covenant relationship with God?
(Matthew 21:42)

PRAYER

Thank the Father for giving us our identity in Christ.

Pray for wisdom to:

- Build in rhythms of retreat and reflection into your life.
- Identify what God wants us to let go of/build in to deepen our walk with Him.



We are living stones fitted together with other living stones in the house of God (1 Peter 2:5)



Day 16 – The Lamb and the King on the Cross



Luke 22:19, 20; Philippians 2:8-11

In comparison to goats, the lamb is a submissive animal by nature. So when the Holy Spirit introduces Jesus Christ to us as the Lamb of God, He points us to an unmistakable feature to His life - His complete obedience to the will of His Father. He submitted to Him to the point of death. We are told in (Philippians 2:9) that it was this final act of submission to the will of the Father that caused the Father to exalt Him to the throne He now sits on, at the very right hand of the Father. This is the pattern that our heavenly Father desires us to follow too. We are charged as good children to demonstrate our love for Him by obeying Him. It is in submitting our will to His that His Kingdom is revealed to the world around us.



Kingdom

Obedience leads to exaltation in the Kingdom.

Covenant

Jesus Christ invites us to be partakers of the new Covenant which He established by His death and sealed with His blood.



How can I find out what the Father wants me to do?

How can I be sure that I love God?

In what practical ways can I demonstrate obedience to the Father?



Thank the Father for giving us Jesus Christ as the Passover lamb and the atoning sacrifice that removed our sins.

Pray for a deeper revelation of what the finished work of Jesus Christ has accomplished.



We are delivered from the power of the Kingdom of darkness. We enjoy Christ's glorious liberty because of what He has accomplished.



Day 17 – The Lord’s Prayer Pattern



Matthew 6:9-13; Matt 7:7-11

When the Lord asked us to pray in His name, He was not giving us a kind of magic formula that ensures that we get whatever we ask for in prayer. No, He was calling us into the same relationship that He has with the Father. He asked us to pray addressing God as “Our Father”, the same way He had always addressed God. He was also teaching us to declare our desire to see “His Kingdom Come”. By saying this, we are recognising the King of the Kingdom and we are accepting our responsibility to commit our lives to doing ‘His will here one earth as it is done in heaven”



Covenant:

God is our Father. He desires us to depend on Him for our needs. He desires His children to live harmoniously together, forgiving each other as He also continues to forgive us.

Kingdom:

God is the King of the Kingdom. In prayers we can bring about His will here on earth as it is done in heaven.



Am I enjoying taking full advantage of the loving Father-son relationship that is depicted in this prayer pattern?

Am I devoted to seeing the Father’s pleasure expressed through my life as demanded in this prayer pattern?



Thank the Father for:

Adopting us into His family.

Giving us the same access and intimacy that Jesus enjoyed.

Provision.

Pray for any need you may have, trusting Him to meet them as a loving and responsible Father.



Your Kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is heaven through us.



Day 18 – A Permanent Covenant and a Risen King



John 20:24-29; Ephesians 2:1-8

The reason why the Lord still bears the scar on His body is not to help the 'Doubting Thomasses'. No. He did it to demonstrate that the Covenant that was sealed by the wounds that left the scar was a permanent Covenant. It was not temporary and was therefore not subject to change like the old Covenant brought by Moses which was cut with the blood of animals.

Even better, the scar that was left by the cruel death on the cross was not the end. God raised Him up and gave Him a glorified body and He now sits right in the very presence of the Father as King of Kings and Lords of Lords, with the scar still on His glorified body.



Covenant:

The scars that the body of Jesus bears is a reassurance that the Covenant that He cut with His blood is an eternal Covenant.

Kingdom:

Christ has risen and is now seated as King at right hand of the Father. We are seated with Him in that exalted position.



How should the permanence of the New Covenant affect my assurance of His love whatever the situation?



Thank the Father for seating us together with Christ.
The authority we have in Him.



I am seated with Christ far above principalities and powers.
We are seated with Christ far above principalities and powers.



Day 19 – The Church is born and The Church is empowered



Acts 1:1-8; Acts 2:40-47

After His resurrection, Jesus Christ commanded His disciples to wait in Jerusalem for the promise of the Father. On the day of Pentecost, while they were gathered together in one place in obedience to their Master, the Holy Spirit came as a mighty rushing wind and filled the disciples, about 120 of them.

The first tangible effect of the outpouring is that they began to speak in tongues, declaring the praise of God in the languages of the Jews that had gathered from different parts of the world. And then Peter, their leader, filled with the Holy Spirit, boldly preached the gospel bearing witness of the resurrected Christ. On that day, 3,000 people believed and joined the disciples. This was the beginning of the New Testament church. The account described the church as a holy community of believers who had all things in common and who were devoted to the teachings of the Apostles.



Covenant:

The early church lived and worshipped as a Covenant community of believers.

Kingdom:

The early church functioned with the same Kingdom authority and power seen in the life of Christ.



What role(s) do I/we need to play to create and maintain a Covenant-based community?



Thank the Father for the Covenant community He is building in IIC, in this town and in this nation.

Father, let the power of the Holy Spirit be revealed afresh in our lives and the fellowship through exercising spiritual gifts.

Pray for boldness, wisdom to preach the gospel in word and in deed.



I walk in this realisation that the Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead dwells in me.



Day 20 – Growth and Persecution of the Church



Acts 6:1-7; 8:1-8

The result of the new movement, which began on the day of Pentecost, was that many more Jews from the synagogue believed on the Lord Jesus and joined the disciples. The church grew exponentially, requiring the leaders of the church to develop ways to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace without stifling the growth.

Also, the Church now empowered by the promised Holy Spirit, performed many mighty undeniable miracles that even further witnessed to the Jews that God was with them. They became a threat to the religious establishment and were therefore targeted for persecution. God used this persecution to disperse His children sending them as ambassadors to their new settlements.



Covenant:

As the Covenant community grows there are challenges requiring greater organisation and leadership structure.

Kingdom:

As the message of the Kingdom is preached there can be opposition and persecution.



Have you discovered your calling and gifting in the Body yet?
If so, what are they?
If not, think and discuss.



Thank the Father for the:
National Leadership Team of Elim.
Leadership team and departmental leaders at IIC.

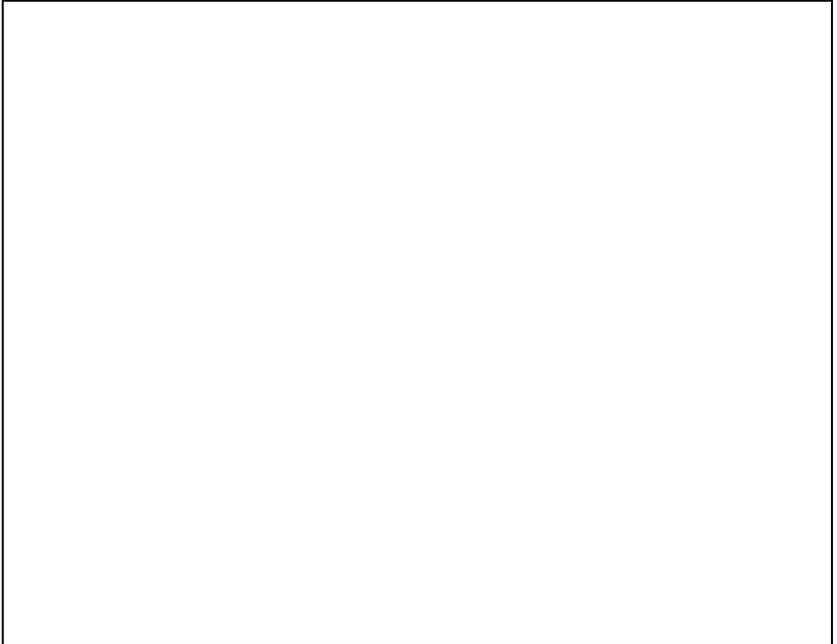
Thank God for His keeping power.

Pray for wisdom for the leaders to know what to do in every season.

Pray for the persecuted church around the world where many are suffering for their faith.



The Lord is my light and salvation I have no need to fear.



Day 21 – Behold, I am coming soon!



Revelations 1:4-8

In our Bible passage today, the Lord declares very clearly that He will return to this earth. In both His earthly account captured in the Gospels and in the epistles, it is made abundantly clear that He will come back to this earth to rule and reign. To the unbelieving world, since it's been about 2,000 years since He first made this promise, the idea of His imminent coming is almost a joke, they continue to carry on with their lives as if everything begins and ends here. Those of us who believe in Him and are therefore part of His Kingdom cannot afford to live like this. We must live our lives knowing that He will make good on His promise to return. As Paul the Apostle writes in (2 Timothy 4:8), there is a crown waiting for those who live their lives looking forward to His appearing.



Covenant:

He has made us kings and priests to God the Father.

Kingdom:

Jesus Christ is eternally the King of kings and Lord of lords and He is coming back again.



How should we live our lives in the knowledge and expectation of His return?



Pray that the Church will be alert and ready for His soon return fulfilling our calling to the end.

Pray for your loved ones, neighbours and friends who are yet to come to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

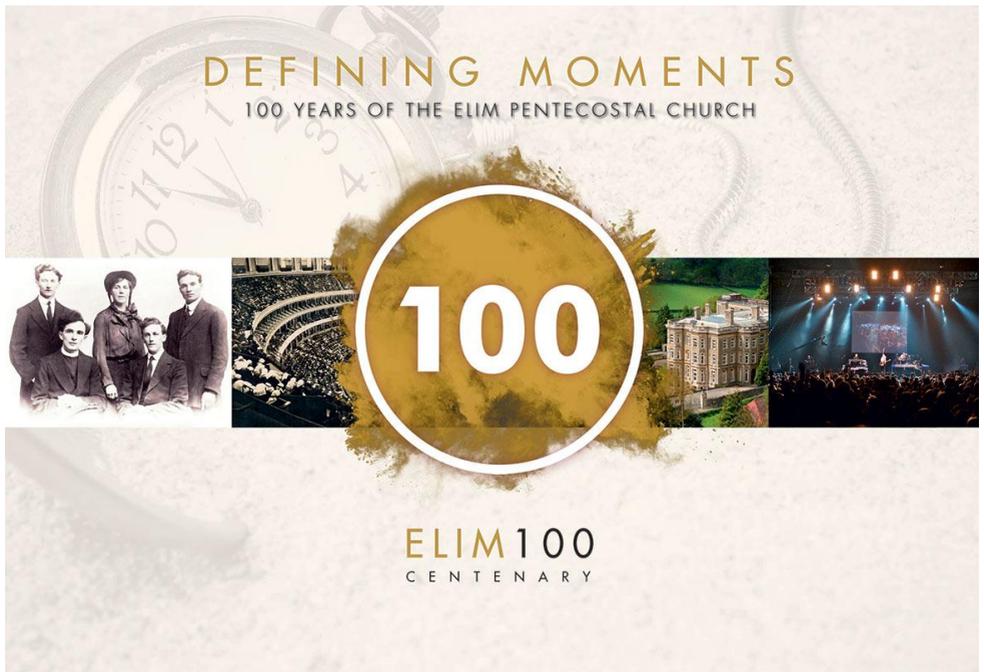


Blessing and honour and glory and power be unto Him who sits on the throne, And to the Lamb, forever and ever!

(and declare together) Oh Come Lord Jesus!



Let us join in celebrating 100 years of the Elim Movement



2015 Our year of increase

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