



TEACH

US TO

PRAY

DANIEL FAST

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 the participating Churches as we ask the LORD to teach us to pray.

INTRODUCTION

According to the evangelist Mark,¹ the primary reason Jesus invited The Twelve – from the crowd that followed Him – was that they would be with Him. He invited them to where they could watch and imitate Him. Many things are caught than taught in such a setting. One of the subjects the disciples caught was to notice the importance of prayer in His life.

Now Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when he finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.” Luke 11:1 (ESV)

^ This is the theme of our Daniel Fast: Lord, teach us to pray. The Lord’s prayer – as it has come to be termed - is the outcome of this desire.

Matthew 6:9-16 (NKJV)

In this manner, therefore, pray:

Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.

Your kingdom come; Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one.

For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever.

Amen.

In these 21 days of praying and fasting, we will explore the many aspects of this prayer in three ways, namely i. UP - relation to God ii. IN - relation to one another as the body of Christ and iii. OUT - relation to the world.

GUIDELINES

In these 21 days of praying and fasting, we will explore these twin subjects of grace and truth. We hope that this booklet will stimulate your appetite to delve into the scriptures yourself.

Each day provides:

A scripture passage to **Read** and to ponder on.

This is followed by

- a few reasons to **Adore** the Father
- points to **Ask** in prayer, meditation and reflection
- your **Act**, this may require inner adjustments, a change in attitude and conduct.

Finally we **Affirm** 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.

UP

PRAYING THE LORD'S PRAYER IN OUR 'UP' RELATIONSHIP

Intro

Jesus shows us that prayer is a conversation with the Father. He was in constant contact with his Father, conversing both silently and out loud. He used remarkably intimate language.

It was an amazing revelation to first century Judaism that you could call God "Dad". They worked with the understanding that God was the overbearing judge of the universe who was waiting to catch you out. It is almost impossible to comprehend the bombshell this was!

He listened to the Father and was completely dependent on Him.

"Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise.

John 5:19 (ESV)

As we pray the Lord's prayer in this first week of the fast, our focus is on the Father as the King of the kingdom whose will, plan and purpose are our desires.

Day 1: The Father's Character

Day 2: The Father's Kingdom

Day 3: The Father's Provision

Day 4: The Father's Forgiveness

Day 5: The Father's Guidance

Day 6: The Father's Protection

Day 7: Review

- Our Father Who lives in our heart

- The kingdom has come

- The Father's Provision

- Forgiveness: Giving and Receiving

- The Holy Spirit is here to guide

- Daniel in the lions' den

- What is God saying and what am I going to do about it?

DAY 1

OUR FATHER WHO LIVES IN OUR HEART

Read: John 14:21-23

²¹ *Those who accept my commandments and obey them are the ones who love me. And because they love me, my Father will love them. And I will love them and reveal myself to each of them.* ²² *Judas (not Judas Iscariot, but the other disciple with that name) said to him, "Lord, why are you going to reveal yourself only to us and not to the world at large?"* ²³ *Jesus replied, "All who love me will do what I say. My Father will love them, and we will come and make our home with each of them."*

John 14:21-23 (NLT)

When He taught His disciples how to pray, Jesus began by saying, "In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven." Jesus uses the word "Abba" which means "daddy" (a term a young child uses for his dad). It is filled with love and hope and joy, and Jesus says this is how we approach the Father in Heaven. Jesus addresses the Father who is in heaven. The Father whose abode is in heaven now makes His home with each one who accepts Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord. He dwells [lives, inhabits] in our hearts. We have a Father who is nearer than we think or imagine.

Do you see God as your Dad/Father? If not, why not?

What does it mean emotionally and mentally to have God as Daddy?

Adore

Thank Him for being our heavenly Father

Thank that He is in heaven but also lives our hearts.

Ask

Ask the Father to reveal any obstacle that prohibits you from fully knowing and experiencing His fatherhood. (e.g. past experience/circumstances)

Pray for a greater revelation of any aspect of His fatherhood

Act

List and reflect on the character traits of our heavenly Father. Think of activities that can help you develop in your relationship with your Father.

Affirm

You are an incomparably good Father.

DAY 2

THE KINGDOM HAS COME

Read: Revelation 5:13

And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying: "Blessing and honour and glory and power Be to Him who sits on the throne, And to the Lamb, forever and ever!"

Revelation 5:13

He is the King. He has no rival. He has no equal. His will is for His rule/reign to be fully expressed and experienced on earth. This requires a change of mindset from the damage caused by the First Adam to the New mind one the Last Adam (Christ Jesus) has made available.

From then on, Jesus began to tell people, "Turn to God and change the way you think and act, because the kingdom of heaven is near!"

Matthew 4:17 (God's Word Translation)

Adore

Let's join the beings of heaven as they sing unto the King of kings:

"Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honour and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created." Revelation 4:11 (ESV)

Ask

Pray Ephesians 1:18 -

that the eyes of your heart be flooded with light that you may align with the King's will and purpose.

Act

In submission to the King, do whatever He tells you today.

Share your experience.

Affirm

Honour and glory to the King who rules forever. (1 Timothy 1:17)

DAY 3

THE FATHER'S PROVISION

Read: Luke 5:1-7

God has made provision for our daily bread – see 2 Peter 1:3. The burning question is: how do we recognise and benefit from His tremendous resources? Quite often, He channels His provision through our professional skill, work, trade and business. In our text, Jesus guides professional fishermen in their trade. As He knows about fishing, He also knows about every profession/vocation - nursing, waste collection, conveyancing, hair dressing, entrepreneurship, care-work, stay-at-home-parenting, teaching, surgery, legal practice. He knows how to meet our daily needs and how to help us increase in our fruitfulness in our business, work and investments.

Adore

Thank the Father for being our Source

Thank the Father for knowing our deepest needs

Thank the Father for the skills and talents He has given us to be fruitful/productive.

Ask

Ask the Father for anything you need

Ask the Father for new ideas/creative ways to use your skill and talents to be fruitful/productive

Act

Allow the Father to use you to be a channel of provision to someone with your skills/talents/finances.

Affirm

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. (Psalm 23:1)

DAY 4

FORGIVENESS: GIVING AND RECEIVING

Read: Matthew 18:23-35

Let's dig into our text a little further:

- i. What does the first servant beg of the master? (verse 26)
- ii. Does he ask for forgiveness? YES / NO
- iii. What does the Master offer? (verse 27)

The servant believes he can pay back and might have left the meeting planning how to pay up. He therefore puts his fellow servant, who owes him far less, under tremendous pressure to repay.

It is fair to say that the first servant probably leaves the master's presence thinking he is only given more time to pay up. This may explain why he refuses to write-off a much less debt. Someone who finds it difficult to forgive may find it difficult to receive God's forgiveness.

When does/did God forgive our debts/sins?

- a. When we ask for forgiveness
- b. When we sin
- c. At the Cross

Adore

Thank the Father for forgiving us our past, present and future sins.

Ask

Pray the Father for a fresh revelation of the price paid for our forgiveness

Pray the Father to reveal if we have not received His forgiveness in any area

Act

Write down the testimony of your experience of forgiveness.

Reflect on the positive impact the Father's forgiveness has had on your life.

Affirm

We have found forgiveness in you.

DAY 5
THE HOLY SPIRIT IS HERE TO GUIDE

Read: 1 Samuel 23:1-14

David had just saved Keilah, a city located in the western foothills of Judah, about 18 miles southwest of Jerusalem and 3 miles southeast of Adullam, from Philistia’s army. However, Saul then heard that he was there. So, he decided to come with an army, to arrest David.

As soon as David heard the reports about Saul, he began to pray. He discerned in prayer that the inhabitants would prove unfaithful to him, in that they would offer to deliver him up to King Saul.

So, David left the city.

In the New Testament, we have been promised that: “when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.” John 16:13 (NKJV)

Adore

Thank the Father for the Holy Spirit who guides us into all truth and tells us things to come.

Ask

Like David, talk to the Father about areas you need guidance.

Act

Actively listen and make a note of what the Holy Spirit has said

Share with someone (or your group) what you’re going to do about it

Affirm

The Holy Spirit guides me into all truth.

DAY 6

DANIEL IN THE LIONS' DEN

Read: Daniel 6: 1 - 22

Daniel was supernaturally delivered in a lions' den, physical situation.

Other kinds of deliverance from evil include but not limited to:

- deliverance from the controlling influence of demons [Matthew 15:21-28]
- deliverance through fire [Daniel 3:8-30]
- deliverance from long term situations [John 5:1-9]

Adore

Thank the Father for what He has delivered you from in the past

Give thanks for what He is delivering you from (seen and unseen; known and unknown).

Ask

Pray for greater revelation of the power and authority in the name of Jesus

Pray for boldness to stand against the wiles of the evil one.

Act

Share a testimony of a recent experience of divine deliverance.

Affirm

The name of the Lord is a strong tower. (Proverbs 18:10a)

DAY 7
TIME TO REVIEW

Today spend some time reflecting over the past week. Use the questions below to capture what God has been saying.

Have you discovered anything new about the nature of God?

What are the significant things God has been saying to you?

How do you respond to what He's said to you?

What are you thanking God for?

Has anything changed in you?

IN PRAYING THE LORD'S PRAYER IN OUR 'IN' RELATIONSHIPS

Intro

Ever since Jesus taught his disciples to pray, the Lord's Prayer has not only been prayed by people individually, but collectively. There is something beautiful and powerful about the body together boldly praying these words.

Our second week of the fast helps us pray the Lord's Prayer for those God places on our faith journey. This includes friends, family, spouses, but also our extended families/households (oikos), our own churches and also the churches together in Ipswich and around the world. Over the few years Burlington and IIC have been doing the Daniel Fast together, we have seen greater unity and a love for one another. As we pray these amazing prayers over each other, love and unity will surely grow.

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|----------------------------------|--|
| Day 8: The Father's Character | - The Trinity. |
| Day 9: The Father's Kingdom | - A Kingdom Family. |
| Day 10: The Father's Provision | - My God will supply for all our needs. |
| Day 11: The Father's Forgiveness | - Ouch, that hurts. |
| Day 12: The Father's Guidance | - Lead us. |
| Day 13: The Father's protection | - The amour of God for our communities and Churches. |
| Day 14: Review | - What is God saying and what am I going to do about it? |

DAY 8

THE FATHER'S CHARACTER- THE TRINITY

Read: 2 Corinthians 13:14

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

Galatians 4:6

Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!"

The Trinity is a perfect relationship and in perfect unity. We are made in this image. The Father, Son and Holy Spirit's very nature shows how we are designed for intimate interconnected relationships. We were never created to travel this journey alone. God gives us friends, family, work colleagues, extended households and other Christians as a gift.

Adore

Many songs proclaim the truth of the Trinity.

Use one such as This I believe - Hillsong Worship. (Video found here <http://iic.io/2K>)

Start your day proclaiming these truths.

Ask

Ask God for encouragement for those you are travelling your faith journey with.

Listen for words of scripture, pictures and prophecy that you can share with the Christians in your life.

Act

Spend time thanking God for specific Christians in your life and pray for them.

Send a person a card/text with the words of encouragement in.

Affirm

We believe in God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit, Three in one.

DAY 9

THE FATHER'S KINGDOM- A KINGDOM FAMILY

Read: Acts 2: 42-45

"They devoted themselves to the apostle's teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostle's. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need."

Read Acts 2:42-47/ Galatians 6:10.

Q. What do you think a kingdom family looks like?

Q. How can we devote ourselves as a family of believers?

As a kingdom family and believers that have the same thing in common - JESUS, we can grow and do good to each other from the knowledge of Him who is good.

Adore

How good is it that we are one big family in Christ. (Ephesians 3:14-15)
Praise Him for the believers he has chosen us to walk with.

Ask

Ask the Father what living as a family may look like in your part of the body of Christ.

Act

How can you demonstrate being a family in the areas where you all live?
Get excited about being active in these places that need hope. (John 1:5)

Affirm

We are God's kingdom family and He is working through us.

DAY 10

GOD SHALL SUPPLY OUR NEEDS

Read: Matthew 6:26 and Genesis 22:14.

Philippians 4:19

“And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.”

‘Give us today our daily bread’

Today we are thinking about the Father’s provision for us as a community. This means that we can trust God in all areas of our lives and cease striving.

What does trusting God for all our needs mean to the community of believers that you are part of?

Adore

List all the provisions we can see God making in our community.

Thank Him for His generosity

Ask

Ask the Father to prompt us through His spirit when we take His provision for granted.

Ask God to highlight areas in your life where you are striving not trusting.

Act

Hold lightly to what you have so God can use it according to His will.

Think of a way that you/we can actively be God’s provision to someone else.

Affirm

I/We believe God will supply all my/our needs. I/We trust in Him.

DAY 11

OUCH THAT HURT

Read: Colossians 3:13 NIV

Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

Ephesians 4:31-32 NIV

Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

There are so many verses we could draw on here which can only lead us to conclude that unforgiveness was a huge problem in the early church. Today, it is one of the things that destroys communities quickly and leads to lasting pain. God knows the cost of forgiveness and offers it to us freely. He asks us to do the same. "For this reason I kneel before the Father from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name."

Adore

"In Christ, God forgave you." Light a candle and thank God for His forgiveness of you personally and/or draw a cross and write a confession pray beneath it. Soak in the wonder of your salvation and forgiveness.

Ask

Ask God to show you people or situations where you need to forgive. This can be painful and may be best done with a close friend/trusted person

Act

Do whatever God leads you to do concerning the forgiveness of others. Perhaps you need to offer an apology to someone, perhaps you need to actively lay names and situations before God and ask for his love to help you forgive.

Affirm

I/We will forgive others, as Christ has forgiven me/us.

DAY 12

LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION

Read: James 4:1-4 and James 1:13-18

Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and he will come near to you. James 4: 7- 8a

No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it. 1 Corinthians 10:13

God gives us our fellowships, communities, small groups and friends to draw alongside us.

i. Who is discipling you? ii. Who is your spiritual mentor? iii. Who are you accountable to? iv. Who prays with you when you need someone to walk with you? v. Who are you discipling?

Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us, over the world's tempestuous sea;
Guard us, guide us, keep us, feed us, for we have no help but Thee;...
Father, You know all our weaknesses. (Hymn by James Edmeston)

Adore

Praise God for His faithfulness. Thank Him that He holds us fast.

Ask

i. The Father guides and leads us away from temptation. He speaks to us Himself and through others. ii. Where and through whom do you hear His guidance? iii. Is there any area where you find it difficult to follow the Holy Spirit's prompting? iv. Is there any aspect of life or daily living where you choose to go your own way? v. What are the implications of this for you to the wider body?

Act

i. What do you do when temptation comes? ii. What way out does God give you, so that you don't give way to temptation? iii. Do you seek guidance from the Holy Spirit whenever you are tempted in thought, word and deed? iv. Is there anything you need to put in place to help (accountability partner etc.)

Affirm

His grace is sufficient for you/us, for His power is made perfect in weakness. (2 Corinthians 12:9)

DAY 13

THE FATHER'S PROTECTION - PRAYING THE ARMOUR OF GOD OVER OUR CHURCH FAMILIES

Read: Psalm 5:11

But let all who take refuge in you be glad; let them ever sing for joy. Spread your protection over them, that those who love your name may rejoice in you.

¹³Therefore put on the full armour of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. ¹⁴Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, ¹⁵and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. ¹⁶In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. ¹⁸And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.

Ephesians 6:13-18

God has already won the victory but the war rumbles on. Our verses today remind us that we have nothing to fear and all the weapons needed to be overcomers are at our disposal. As we pray today, let's take ground and ask God's protection over our own families, extended households, churches and town.

Adore

Thank God for the victory He ultimately won for us on the cross. Thank the Father for the victories you have seen in your own life, own extended families and church community recently.

Ask

Are there any weaknesses/lies that your community/ household /Christians friends are believing?

What weapon do you need to draw on at this time?

Ask the Father to show you clearly.

Act

Take seriously the command to pray for the Lord's people.

By name pray for those God has been speaking to you about this week and pray protection over them.

Affirm

We stand firm in the Lord.

DAY 14

TIME TO REVIEW

Today spend some time reflecting over the past week. Use the questions below to capture what God has been saying. Why spend some time getting creative and draw a scripture that God has spoken to you about this week? Or why not gather with another Christian and share what God has been doing in and through you.

What are you thanking God for?

What are the significant things God has been saying to you?

What is God asking you to do about them?

OUT

PRAYING THE LORD'S PRAYER ABOUT OUR 'OUT' RELATIONSHIPS

Intro

Throughout this week we will be praying the Lord's Prayer with people in mind who do not know the Father as yet. This may include family members, work colleagues, people of peace, friends, acquaintances, or maybe someone new that the Father encourages you to reach out to.

Jesus throughout His entire earthly ministry was the friend of sinners and chose and reached the unexpected – tax collector, adulteress, etc. He came to seek and to save the lost (Luke 19 v 10). Let us be reminded in 2 Corinthians 5 that like Jesus we have been given the ministry of reconciliation as though God were making His appeal to others through us. Throughout this week and beyond let's put this into practice.

Day 15: The Father's Character

- Merciful

Day 16: The Father's Kingdom

- Light of the world

Day 17: The Father's Provision

- Who is my neighbour?

Day 18: The Father's Forgiveness

- The Ministry of Reconciliation

Day 19: The Father's Guidance

- Lead us not into temptation

Day 20: The Father's Protection

- Wrestling for our town

Day 21: Review

- What is God saying and what am I going to do about it?

DAY 15

MERCIFUL FATHER

Read: Matthew 9 v 9-13; Ephesians 2 v 1-10; Matthew 5 v 7

Today we want to be reminded that the Father is able to reach and transform lives of people we may least expect. Remember the story of the transformation of Saul from persecuting Christians to becoming the Apostle Paul who planted churches.

As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector's booth. "Follow me," he told him, and Matthew got up and followed him.¹⁰ While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and sinners came and ate with him and his disciples. ¹¹When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?"¹² On hearing this, Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. ¹³But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' [a] For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

Matthew 9:9-13

Adore

Thank the Father that His mercy reached us when we were far from Him.
(Ephesians 2 v 1-10)

Thank Him that He desires to reach others with mercy through you/us.

Ask

The Father to remove any preconceived ideas of who His mercy is for

Act

How can you be a channel of the mercy of Father today?

(Matthew 5 v 7)

Affirm

I/We believe in the transforming power of the mercy of the Father.

Or personalize it:

I/We believe in the transforming power of the mercy of the Father for
[insert name/s]

DAY 16

LIGHT OF THE WORLD

Read: Matthew 9 v 35-37

³⁵ Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. ³⁶ When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷ Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few."

One of the most exciting and amazing truths is that the Father desires to partner with us to reach others. Today, let us be expectant that the kingdom is going to breakthrough into people's lives through us.

¹⁴ "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

Matthew 5:13-16

Q. How is your light shining?

Q. Do you spend time with not yet believers?

Adore

Thank the Father that our light is not for ourselves but for the sake of others

Ask

What good deed is Father asking you to partner with Him in today?

Act

Pray for someone who is sick (If possible, physically meet and minister to him/her)

Affirm

We are the light of the world reaching out in compassion to those in darkness.

DAY 17

WHO IS MY NEIGHBOUR?

Read: Luke 10 v 25-37

Generosity is a lifestyle that we have been called to as Christians and is a way that we reflect the Father's heartbeat to those who do not know Him. Read the story of the Good Samaritan and note how generous he was with what he had.

³⁴ He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. ³⁵ The next day he took out two denarii[c] and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.'³⁶ "Which of these three do you think was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?"³⁷ The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him." Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."

Luke 10 v 34-37

Q. How generous am I/are we to our neighbour? (Finance/Resources/Time/Homes/Words etc.)

Adore

Thank the Father for His provision to you

Thank the Father that everyone we meet are our neighbour's

Ask

The Father how he may want to use the following to benefit not yet believers:

i. Money ii. Time iii. Home iv. Resources/skills v. Help

Act

Pray for those you know who need a specific provision from the Father

Express the generous heart of the Father in whatever way the Father leads.

(Could be buying someone a coffee/lunch/inviting someone to dinner etc.)

Affirm

I am/We are unusually generous people!

DAY 18

THE MINISTRY OF RECONCILIATION

Read Matthew 6:14-15; Matthew 18:23-35; 2 Corinthians 5:11-21
In any meaningful relationship that we engage in, there will arise a time when we need to exercise forgiveness and be forgiven. (Please remember forgiveness is not the condoning of wrongful actions). Jesus has given us the ministry of reconciliation that men/women/young people and children may be reconciled to Him. How can we be agents of forgiveness and examples of reconciliation? How could this positively affect families, friendships, workplaces?

“And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. 20 We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us.”

2 Corinthians 5 v 19-20

Q. How has being forgiven changed your life?

Q. Who would you like to see transformed by the Father’s forgiveness??

Adore

Listen to ‘Humbled by your Majesty’. Thank the Father for being willing to send Jesus to pay the price that we might be forgiven. Thank the Father that He longs for those you know to experience His forgiving power.

Ask

Is there anyone you need to show forgiveness to?

Pray for those in your family/work/school/college/extended family to be open to offer and receive forgiveness.

Pray for those you know where unforgiveness is holding them back from relationship with Jesus

Act

How can you help to foster a culture of forgiveness in whatever environment you are in?

Share with someone your experience of the power of the Father’s forgiveness or the impact of unforgiveness

Affirm

I/We will live out the ministry of reconciliation you have called us to.

DAY 19

LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION

Read: Romans 5:6-11; Ephesians 2:1-5, 8-9

It is good to remind ourselves that we were enemies of Christ and how whilst we were sinners Christ died and rose for us. We have accessed the benefits that this brings. With this in mind, let's be aware that those who we know are currently under the influence of the ruler of the kingdom of the air and let's intercede for them that the veils have blinded them will be removed.

⁶ You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly.

⁷ Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. ⁸ But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. ⁹ Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! ¹⁰ For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! ¹¹ Not only is this so, but we also boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Romans 5 v 6-11

Q. Who are you discipling who is not yet a believer?

Adore

Thank the Father that just as He reached us when we were enemies – through us He can reach family members, colleagues, friends etc.

Ask

The Father for a fresh heart of compassion for those who you know who are living in disobedience. That the Father would reveal any specific veil covering their understanding.

Act

Listen to the Father and see what He says for someone specific you know who needs guidance at his time. Arrange to meet or send a text of encouragement to them. Pray that someone would come across their path who can bring Father's guidance into their situation

Affirm

We believe veils of spiritual blindness are falling.

DAY 20

WRESTLING FOR OUR TOWN

Read: Ephesians 6:12

¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

2 Corinthians 10:3-5

³ For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. ⁴ The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. ⁵ We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

In the Jubilee Park area, we have seen a rise in drugs, gang culture, sex trade and trafficking. Today, we want to proclaim Father's protection against the principalities at work in this specific part of town. You may be aware of other specifically challenging areas – please keep these in mind today.

Adore

Thank the Father for the opportunity to partner with Him and together to intercede for our streets/town. Thank the Father that His protection is constant

Ask

The Father to reveal any controlling/influencing spirits at work
Pray for those in gangs/vulnerable to joining gangs to have encounters with the Father

Act

Prayer walk your street or specific area Father asks you to intercede for young people especially those who are more vulnerable to the enemies' tactics. Pray to the Father to send angels to the area that needs an intervention.

Affirm

The weapons of our warfare have divine power and demolish strongholds.
I believe in answered prayer.

DAY 21
TIME TO REVIEW

Today spend some time reflecting over the past week. Use the questions below to capture what God has been saying. Why not spend some time getting creative and draw a scripture that God has spoken to you about this week? How about allocating some time in your schedule to spend with not yet believers?

What are you thanking God for?

What are the significant things God has been saying to you?

What is God asking you to do about them?

Who are you going to be accountable to, to ensure you put it into practice?

NOTES



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