



In this life we will not always experience happy situation, but there will be times when we are sad, disappointed, afraid, angry, or feel lonely. In all those situations we have to know and understand that God is our safe refuge, a safe anchor in our life, and He is more powerful than everything.

Therefore, in the beginning of this year 2017, let us dedicate our lives once again to seek God and know His will through 21 Days Prayer and Fasting. We will learn that by coming together to God, we can move forward and become more than conquerors.

"In all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us." (Romans 8:37 ESV)

We pray that all of you could live a victorious life with Jesus as the center and grow into the person God wants you to be.

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Together Forward, IFGF Kids & IFGF Pray



## INTRODUCTION

## What is 2I Days of Prayer and Fasting? Daniel 10:2-3

"In those days I, Daniel, was mourning three full weeks. I ate no pleasant food, no meat or wine came into my mouth, nor did I anoint myself at all, till three whole weeks were fulfilled"

Daniel fast is a type of fast that is done in a very specific way. During this fasting, we avoid unwholesome food (junk food, candies, snacks, etc) and decide to choose healthy food instead.

## The Purpose of 21 Days of Prayer and Fasting

I. To train us to have quiet time with God every day.
I. To obtain knowledge, understanding, and wisdom from God.
I. To dedicate everything we do in the year 2017 unto God.



## Prayer Guideline during Fasting

I. For 2I days, pray for at least I people around you, it could be your family, teacher, friend, or the people you know.



- 2. Reduce the time for playing gadget or watching television. Set aside routine time to have quiet time with God. Worship Him, read the 2l Days Daniel Fasting Guide, meditate upon His word and pray
- 3. Ask God for His wisdom to lead us throughout 2017.
- 4. After finishing 2l days, write a testimony on a piece of paper and give it to your IFGF Kids Teacher.



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# Entering 2017







### **1. ALWAYS INQUIRING**

I Samuel 30

When we are little, we like to ask, "Mom, why is the sky blue?" "Where are we going?" "Can I play at my friend's house?" "When will you come home?" etc. But as we grow older, it seems that we rarely ask questions like this, isn't it?

However, in our relationship with God, God longs for us to keep asking Him questions, eventhough we are older, and we can do that through our prayers every day. Often times when we pray, we tell God our story or report things to Him, while in fact He wants us to build a conversation with Him, and listen to His voice.

How can we do that? Do we hear God's voice directly? Maybe not. But God can talk to us clearly through His word or in our hearts. Perhaps in the beginning it will be difficult for us to understand, but learn to keep doing it faithfully, and one day you will certainly understand His will.

So keep having your quiet time and keep asking questions to God.

Prayer Point: What do you want to ask God right now? Be patient and learn to listen to Him.



### 2. THE IMPORTANCE OF WISDOM

2 Samuel 5:17-25, Proverbs 4:7

In the battle against the Philistines, David always looked for the wisdom and direction from God before he fought, although David was a really capable soldier who had gone through many battles. In his early age, he fought Goliath, a giant, and David was also trained to fight and he understood many strategies of the Philistines. But David did not fail to ask wisdom from God, whether he should step forward to fight or not in every battle (2 Samuel 5:19, 23). As a result, God gave him different instructions and the best strategy to win every battle (2 Samuel 5:24-25).

With knowledge advancing, people rarely seek God's wisdom and rely more on technology and science, and without us realizing, in making decisions we often overlook the most important thing, which is asking for God's wisdom. Especially during those times when we feel that we have enough experience or knowledge. Often times we act based on what we know or our experience. God's wisdom gives us the ability to distinguish between right or wrong, the action to take, and the right time to act. God's wisdom does not only give us success, but it also guides us to live according to God's will. Knowledge and experience are important, but only God's wisdom will lead us to the victory He has provided (Ecclesiastes 9:18).

Prayer Points: What decisions and plans that we are making for 2017? Ask God for His wisdom and strategy. Make the wisdom and the word of God as the foundation of our lives everyday.



3. GOD'S PRESENCE Exodus 33

Moses was given a task to lead a nation whom God Himself called to be a stubborn people, the Israelites, to the Promised Land. At that time, we can imagine that Moses was filled with fear, anxious about all the upcoming uncertainties, and Moses realized that he needed help to take on the journey (Exodus 33:12). Therefore, in the tent of meeting Moses asked for God's presence to accompany him on this journey.

Entering 2017 we might not know what journey, challenges, or adventure awaits us. Lately, news that we hear or watch are filled with bad things. However we should remember that in all things, God's presence is in us, with us, and greater than any name that exists in the world. In every situation, we are more than a conqueror through Him who loved us (Romans 8:37). God's presence will:

- I. Teach us to live in His ways (Exodus 33:13).
- 2. Give us rest (Exodus 33:14).
- 3. Distinguish us from other people (Exodus 33:16). Imagine living as children of President of The United States of America. Their lives are different from other children. As children of the Creator of the universe, His presence sets us apart from other people because His favor, promises, and purpose are for us.

Entering 2017, let us use this praying and fasting time to seek His presence wholeheartedly and the things that He desires us to do this year. As we seek Him with all our heart, He will be found by us (Jeremiah 29:12-13).

Prayer Point: Let us build a lifestyle that always prioritizes seeking God's presence.



### 4. OBEDIENCE Genesis 22

Our mom and dad often advise us with commands which we sometimes don't understand the reasons, such as to stop and look right and left before crossing the street or to be careful when holding sharp objects, or to not jump on the bed, etc. However, though we don't understand, we still try to obey, why? Because we know that our parents always want to protect and give the best for us.

In Genesis 22, God gives a very strange command to Abraham. Abraham was told to sacrifice his only son whom he loves very much as a burnt offering. Can we imagine? Abraham had waited for decades for a child and after he had one, God asked that the child to be killed as burnt offering. It is hard to imagine what Abraham would have felt at that moment. But because of his trust in God that God is the one who provides, Abraham obeyed God's command.

What is the thing that God wants us to do in our life right now? Though the command may sound weird or seem impossible, if we obey it as we trust our parents, He will give us the victory. ""For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."" (Jeremiah 29:11)

**Prayer Point:** 

Pray that we could understand God's will in our life and we have the courage to obey His command.



5. PRAYING WITH PERSISTENCE Luke 18:1, 2 Chronicles 20:9

Before Kentucky Fried Chicken (KFC) became one of the world's largest restaurants, Colonel Sanders drove all across the country trying to sell his chicken recipe. Colonel Sanders persisted through 1,009 rejections until he got one "yes". At age 74, Colonel Sanders had more than 600 franchised outlets KFC in North America. Results and breakthroughs do not come overnight but require persistence.

What about our prayer life? In 2 Chronicles 20:9, Jehoshaphat was facing great distress and he prayed for God's deliverance and refused to stop praying until God hears and saves them. In Luke 18, God assures us that even a judge who fears neither God nor man answers the prayer of a persistent widow. Would not our God who is loving, kind, and just do even more? God wants us to never give up in our prayer and have faith that He truly is a God who hears our prayer, cry, and able to deliver us in His time.

Entering 2017, there might be some unanswered prayer from years before. Do not give up and stop praying until we see the answer. He is never too late to answer our prayer and God is only a prayer away.

Prayer Points: Do not give up and lose hope. Be faithful in our prayer life, proclaim His promises upon our situation and have faith that He is a God who hears our prayer.



## 6. VICTORIOUS PRAYER

2 Chronicles 20:1-29

Jehoshaphat experienced great distress in his life when a vast army of Moabites, Ammonites, and Meunites gathered to wage war against him. Alarmed and faced with great uncertainties, Jehoshaphat earnestly seek the Lord. His prayer was no ordinary prayer, but a victorious one. How can we pray a victorious prayer?

I. Pray with focus set on God (2 Chronicles 20:12).

Jehoshaphat did not know what to do, but he fixed his eyes on Jesus. When we use a magnifying glass to see an object, the object will appear bigger. When we focus our thoughts on our problem alone, our problem will appear bigger than what it actually is. However, when we focus our thoughts on God, His greatness and ability will be greater than our problem.

- 2. Pray with unity (2 Chronicles 20:3-4). There is power in unity. We can pray and fast together with our family or friends.
- 3. Pray with faith (2 Chronicles 20:17). God told Jehoshaphat to not be discouraged and afraid and to march forward. In our prayers and actions, do not be afraid because He is with us.
- 4. Pray with authority (2 Chronicles 20: 29). Ephesians 6:12-13 instructs us to take on the armor of God and use God's given authority to fight and gain victory.

Prayer Point:

Let us discipline ourselves to build a prayer life until we see victory happens through our prayers.

ENTERING 2017



#### 7. A HEART OF THANKSGIVING I Thessalonians 5:18, Philippians 4:6-7, Proverbs 17:22

"Often people ask how I manage to be happy despite having no arms and no legs. The quick answer is that I have a choice. I can be angry about not having limbs, or I can be thankful that I have a purpose, I chose gratitude." - Nick Vujicic

Nick Vujicic was born without limb in 1982, Australia. Due to his physical condition, he had a difficult childhood and adolescence. He was familiar with bullying, loneliness, and even attempted suicide. However, he found faith in God and God has used his life to be a motivational speaker that changed many lives, bringing messages of hope and life purpose throughout the world. How can someone who needed so much effort to brush his teeth, put on clothes, or learn to swim live a life filled with gratitude? One thing we can learn form Nick Vujicic is that he always chooses an attitude of thanksgiving for whatever happens in his life.

You may feel that last year was not a good year for you, or you could feel that last year was a very exciting year. Whatever that we have gone through, we have to fill our hearts with thanksgiving. Whether our situation was good or bad, God is always good and He never leaves us. So let us choose thanksgiving because that is the will of God in Christ Jesus for us (I Thessalonians 5:18).

Prayer point: Entering 2017, what are we afraid of? Let us choose to cast our cares upon Him and maintain a heart of thanksgiving.







# COMING TOGETHER







8. TOGETHERNESS Mark 3:14

Every family has its own tradition which is different one from another. For example, in my family every Christmas we gather together to pray and open up gifts, or every birthday will be celebrated at exactly I2 AM. Your family may have a different habit. Can you remember the habits your family always do? Habits or traditions like this are being passed from our ancestors and we carry out those at our time.

In the ancient culture, the process of passing down a tradition usually takes place around a campfire. One elderly person will tell the story while the young ones listen attentively to him. After these young people grew up, they will repeat the same ritual so that the tradition is passed from generation to generation.

Likewise, the Kingdom of God also has its tradition which is being passed on by our 'ancestor', Jesus, and our duty is to continue this tradition of the Kingdom of God to the people under us so that the values of those truths will not fade away. How to do it? Through togetherness. In the past, the values were passed through togetherness around a campfire. The point here is not the campfire but the togetherness. When we are together as one church, one body of Christ, it is the exact moment to pass on the tradition of the Kingdom of God. That is the reason why we always come to church every Sunday and do many activities together with our friends.

Prayer Points:

Ask God that when we gather together, there will be moments to share values and not just a mere gathering.



#### 9. TOGETHER WITHOUT PREJUDICE Mark 3:16-19

One of the famous moments in the history of the modern Olympics is in 1936 Berlin Olympic in Germany. When Jesse Owens, an American athlete, won the gold medal, Hitler who was the head of the German country back then, refused to award the medal to him just because Owens was black. He rather chose to walk out and not giving the medals to all the winners from various countries.

Is what Hitler did a good thing? Of course not. He judged based on skin color and despised the black. God created us all different from one another, there is no one single same person. And God wants us to regard everybody with the same value. Although we have different skin color, different height, different language, but before God we are all the same.

When we have bad prejudice (prejudice = thought) towards other person who is different from us, then we are creating a diversity which will bring bad things in our life. So let us learn to see other people with the same value, whoever they are and whatever their lives are.

"Prejudice means you don't see the other human being anymore, but only your own concept of that human being." -Eckhart Tolle-

Prayer Points:

Ask God to cleanse our heart from all prejudices which potentially destroy our relationship with our friends.

COMING TOGETHER



#### 10. TOGETHER GREATER Mark 3:14-15

In the history of battle against colonialism in any country, no victory can be achieved when the people in the nation are not united. Victory or freedom from invaders can only be obtained when there is unity among the whole colonized nation.

This shows us that there is power in unity. When we are united together, there is power that enables us to do anything. Jesus understood this principle, that He appointed twelve people to be His apostles. And to them, He gave the power to cast away the devil. But their power was not in their individual ability, but when they were united. After they were given the power, the twelve apostles were sent two by two to all the cities in Israel to proclaim the Gospel, cast out the demon, and heal the sick.

There is power in togetherness. Alone we might be good, but when we are together, walking towards the same direction, using our talents and grace to achieve the purpose, then there will be extraordinary things that we can see.

"If everyone is moving forward together, then success takes care of itself." -Henry Ford-

Prayer Points:

Ask God to unite us with our family, teachers, and friends to achieve many things which God has prepared for us.



II. ACCEPTANCE John 4:1-40. Romans 15:7-12

Jesus was traveling from Jerusalem to Galilee and had to go through Samaria. Tired and thirsty, Jesus sat alone by Jacob's Well. While sitting alone, a Samaritan woman came to the well to draw water and Jesus had a life changing conversation with her.

The Samaritan woman was surprised that Jesus, a Jew, was willing to carry a conversation with her and even asked her for water. During that time, Jews would not interact with Samaritans because they despised Samaritans. The woman was also despised by society because she had many husbands and had to draw water during inconvenient hour in the heat of the day where she would not meet other women. In this story, Jesus was showing us examples to:

- I. Accept those who are different than us.
- 2. It is God's part to judge and our part to extend God's grace.
- 3. The purpose of acceptance is for the glory of God (Romans 5:7).

Many people tend to accept those who have the same background with them. However, we need to get out of comfort zone to accept those who are different from us. To come together, we need to value, accept other people, extend God's grace and share the good news to them.

Prayer point: Remember how God has accepted us when we were still in our sins. Pray for a heart and eyes that see others in the way Jesus sees them.



I2. FORGIVENESS Ephesians 4:31-32, Colossians 3:13

Ronnie Smith, and his family moved from Texas, Austin to Benghazi to teach high school chemistry and dedicated their time in Benghazi to help students aspire to their dreams. The family saw the suffering of Libyan people and wanted to build a better future for them. After working for more than a year, four unidentified assailants in a black jeep shot Ronnie to death. After his death, Annie Smith, his wife wrote an open letter to the attackers, telling them that she understood where they were coming from and had already forgiven them. Annie said "I love you and forgive you". It was God's spirit that enabled Annie to be released from anger and forgive them.

Through Annie's story we can learn that forgiveness is a matter of choice. Despite her grief and loss, Annie chose to extend the forgiveness she received from Christ to those attackers.

When we decide to forgive those who hurt us, we are actually setting our own soul free from the bondage of anger, hatred, and disappointment. There are times when we struggle to forgive. If that is the case, be honest and open to God about our pain. Ask God to fill our heart with His love and let the love of Christ help us to release forgiveness. Forgiving those who have hurt us might become an opportunity to share the love of Christ to those around us.

Prayer Point: Ask God to help us forgive the people who have hurt us.



#### 13. UNLEASH YOUR POTENTIAL Mark 1:22

When Jesus had conversations with the law teachers at the age of twelve, it is written that they were impressed by what Jesus said. They were amazed at how could a teenager possess such deep knowledge.

If we possess a quality in us, then sooner or later, like it or not, eventhough we try to conceal it, people will find out that quality. As the sun doesn't have to insist that it is a sun, but instead it just shines its bright, everyone will know that it has the quality as the main source of light.

In this life sometimes we are tempted to prove ourselves to other people, showing off our abilities. Whereas, if our ability has its quality, people will realize it and admit it themselves.

Prayer Points: Ask God to give us humility so that we don't try to show off our abilities, but instead we live ordinarily, using our talents to the max.



#### IH. TOGETHER SHARING THE GOOD NEWS Mark 3:14-15

Why did Jesus have to appoint twelve apostles to help Him spread the Gospel? Because alone Jesus is a limited human being, but when twelve people spread the same message together, there is a greater potential for the message to spread widely to many places.

Jesus and the twelve apostles are no longer living in this world. But we can still hear the echo of the news that they spread. However, there are still people who haven't heard the Gospel. Therefore, let us follow the example of Jesus and His twelve disciples. Let us spread the message of truth and this good news together so that more people will hear it and believe in God. That should be the purpose of our gathering, how we can make more people hear the Gospel.

"Not only must the message be correctly delivered, but the messenger himself must be such as to recommend it to acceptance." -John Barber Lightfoot-

Prayer Point:

Ask God to give us wisdom so that when we gather together we can bring the good news of salvation to more people.

COMING TOGETHER





# MOVING TOGETHER







I5. SEASON FOR A REASON Ecclesiastes 3:1

A fairytale always ends with "they lived happily ever after". We tend to focus on the happily ever after, but the truth is God cares more about what happens in between.

If we are honest, life is not always beautiful. There are times when we are sick, sad, angry, etc, however Ecclesiastes 3:II says, "God has made everything beautiful for its own time." This verse tells us that God appoints each season in our lives to bring about His good purposes and in proper time, even the "bad" can be used for good.

If nowadays your life seems ugly, remember you are in a season for a reason. Continue to trust in Him knowing that He has appointed and wants to use those seasons to accomplish His will. He is walking each step of the way with you!

Prayer Points: Are you facing difficult time in your life right now? Ask God that you can keep being faithful and put your trust in God in every situation.

#### I6. LEADING FROM BEHIND Mark 10:45

Nelson Mandela is one of the most famous leaders in the world known for leading South Africa through the Anti-Apartheid Revolutionary and into democracy. He became a symbol of compassion and equality for the people. In his Biography, Long Walk to Freedom, he likened leadership to that of shepherding - "Lead from the back and let others feel like they are in front".

The gospel of Mark portrays Jesus as a servant leader. He taught something very contradictory that defined true leadership. "The greatest shall serve". God doesn't just want you to move forward alone. Great leaders lead from behind, they set examples and move others forward together. Even Jesus who is a King came to serve us!

Though we are still little, let us learn to become a great leader. We can lead like Jesus led, giving examples for others to follow and move other people to go forward together. Being a leader doesn't mean to ask other people to do things for us, but how we can move together to achieve the same purpose.

Prayer Point: What talents and strengths that God has given in our lives? Ask God to open our views, give us new creativity and understanding to use our talents for His glory.



17. PURPOSEFULLY BUSY Mark 1:38

Let's start with a question. Do you always feel like you don't have enough time to do all your responsibilities? It seems like we are too busy and we cannot finish whatever we do. The truth is no one is "too busy"; they're just lost in their priorities.

In Mark I:38-39, Jesus was just in the early stages of this ministry. In the night before Jesus had just finished ministering to the mass, healing and praying for the people. Everyone was excited, they all came heard and came to see him - Jesus was gaining popularity! Peter told Jesus, "Everyone is looking for you!" But Jesus surprised the disciples by telling them that he MUST go into the smaller towns to preach the gospel. In other words, the disciples were more focused on getting Jesus to fame whilst Jesus was more focused on his priority of preaching the Gospel.

We tend to do the same in life. We started off strong, having purpose, but then we lose sight of our focus and priorities and we burn out. Then, how? Learn from Jesus. By taking time each morning in solidarity with the Father, Jesus was able to continuously focus on his priority (Mark 1:35-36). When we commit ourselves to our quiet time, God will speak to us and tell us what to do.

Prayer Point:

Pray that God gives us wisdom to use our time wisely and we can have the right life priorities before God.



#### 18. LEAVE YOUR COMFORT ZONE Acts 21:13

Imagine a famous prophet of God came up to you, and prophesied that you would do great and mighty things, gave you your favorite verse and said God will bless you abundantly. Sounds perfect right? Then comes the big "BUT"- BUTyou will suffer many things. God is going to get you out of your comfort zone and you will experience many uncomfortable situations. Still excited?

In Acts 2l, Agabus a prophet came up to Paul and tied his hands. Told him that if he does proceed to Jerusalem, he will be handed over to the Gentiles and suffer. People around him even wept and begged him not to go. What would you have done if you were Paul? If I were him, I would not go to Jerusalem. But not the Apostle Paul. He said it is not about the suffering ahead, but it's what God wants to accomplish through his life that's important, even if he had to endure hardship, he was determined to remain faithful to God. Paul definitely saw through his situation, can you?

The truth is it is so easy to follow Jesus when it's convenient, when it's full of blessing and goodness. But there is more, God is calling us to be obedient. And He often uses the bumpy roads in our life to accomplish His good work. Keep being obedient, and you will see His miracles in your life.

Prayer Point: Ask for the courage to step out of comfort zone. God's plan is to enlarge every aspect of our life and move us forward!



I9. SPIRITUAL FITNESS Jude I: 20

One of the biblical figures who has great spiritual fitness is Moses. He died at the age of I20. To reach his final destination, Moses had to climb Mount Nebo. And he did that not half-heartedly, instead he climbed to the peak, Pisgah (Deuteronomy 34). His eyes were still bright and he hadn't lose his strength. From the peak of the mountain, Moses saw the whole area which God was giving the Israelites. Until the end of his life Moses still could enjoy a beautiful relationship with the Lord. Through his perfect senses, Moses still could enjoy all the blessings God had prepared!

Spiritual fitness is closely linked to and is the foundation to build health and strength in our soul and body. If there is a saying in the world "inside a strong body there is a healthy soul", the Bible gives a more complete health. Inside a strong body and a healthy soul, there is a strong spirit. For us to move forward in our faith journey, we have to build spiritual fitness, and that strength can only be obtained when we have a close relationship with God. That strength will enable us to become more than conquerors in our journey of faith.

Prayer Point:

Let us take care not just our physical strength, but also our spiritual health. Build the tent of meeting every morning with God to exercise our spiritual muscle and enjoy our encounter with God.

20. PERSEVERANCE Romans 12: II-12

A boxer will hesitate to walk up into a ring without ample preparation. Without enough physical and mental exercise, a boxer will not be ready to face his opponent. Likewise, we also need to exercise our spiritual muscle in our faith race.

Paul likened our faith race to a marathon or boxing (I Cor. 9:24-26). Being patient in affliction is one of the foremost requirement if one wants to exercise his spiritual muscle. Spiritual exercise such as this fasting we are in is uncomfortable. To build perseverance, we need to learn self control. By persevering we will possess the strength and firmness to face anything. Moreover, perseverance will draw us forward in the knowledge of God.

If we are feeling tired in facing all the life challenges, take a moment to remember God's faithfulness and provision in our life. Persevere in calling out to God, he is an ever-present help in trouble (Psalm 46:2). Let the peace of Christ fall down, comfort, and reign in our hearts.

Prayer Point: Persevere and be patient when things are uncomfortable. When facing difficult situation, profess God's Word that He is our refuge and strength in times of trouble (Psalm 46:2).



2I. START SHARING 2 Timothy 4: 2, 5

Guy Kawasaki is an evangelist. He is spreading the "good news", but it is not the Gospel. Guy Kawasaki tells the goodness of a thing called Macintosh. This guy totally believes that all Apple products will make people's life more productive. If someone's life is productive, certainly he will bear good results and it will bring success into the person's life. Indirectly, this Apple evangelist believes that the people who eventually use Apple products will experience blessings in their life.

All parts of the church have received a complete package from God. Through salvation in Christ Jesus, all of us have received the blessings He has provided. The blessing God is giving is not just powerful to make one's life productive, but it has the power to give us eternal life in heaven. How many of us is enthusiastic to bring this true good news?

The gospel - good news - is the power of God (Romans I:16). When we bring the gospel, we allow God's strength to work through our beings. Start to be courageous in sharing the gospel. The joy of seeing people's life being changed by Christ's love is greater than the fear of rejection for sharing the gospel. Use our personal testimony about what Jesus has done and changed in our life.

Prayer Point: Pray for the chance to witness to those needing salvation. The wisdom, courage, and love from God will accompany us as we testify.

#2ldaysprayandfast

**IFGF**KIDS