

COVENANT^{EFC}

devotional journal 2014

1 march - 30 april



10:40

shine
righteously

shine

righteously

Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

—
1 JOHN 2:15

For all that is in the world – the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride in possessions – is not from the Father but is from the world.

—
1 JOHN 2:16

COVENANT EFC

contents

Foreword by Senior Pastors	8	Family Devotional: Love One Another	48
Guide to Using this Devotional Journal	10	Sermon Notes	49
Preparing for 40 Days of Prayer	11	March 16, Sunday: Review, Reflect, Response	50
Calendar (March – April 2014)	12	March 17, Monday: Come and See	52
March Devotional		March 18, Tuesday: The First Sign	54
March 1, Saturday: To the Praise of His Glorious Grace!	14	March 19, Wednesday: Zeal for Your House Will Consume Me	56
Family Devotional: No Sin is Too Big	16	March 20, Thursday: You Must Be Born Again	58
Sermon Notes	17	March 21, Friday: He Must increase, I Must decrease	60
March 2, Sunday: Review, Reflect, Response	18	March 22, Saturday: He HAD to Pass Through Samaria	62
March 3, Monday: Two Most Important Realities	20	Family Devotional: Encourage Others to Do Right	64
March 4, Tuesday: Knowing God: Where Am I Now?	22	Sermon Notes	65
March 5, Wednesday: Knowing Myself: What's the Real Me?	24	March 23, Sunday: Review, Reflect, Response	66
March 6, Thursday: Following Jesus: "What Would Jesus Do?"	26	March 24, Monday: Your Son Will Live	68
March 7, Friday: Obeying God: What Does God Say?	28	March 25, Tuesday: Do You Want to Be Healed?	70
March 8, Saturday: Following Jesus: Where's God Leading Me?	30	March 26, Wednesday: Doing What the Father Does	72
Family Devotional: Obeying God's Commandments	32	March 27, Thursday: These Bear Witness	74
Sermon Notes	33	March 28, Friday: Take Courage – I AM!	76
March 9, Sunday: Review, Reflect, Response	34	March 29, Saturday: I Am the Bread of Life	78
March 10, Monday: Law, Light, and Love	36	Family Devotional: Do Not Love the World	80
March 11, Tuesday: Leaving the Light, Living in Darkness	38	Sermon Notes	81
March 12, Wednesday: In the Beginning Was the Word	40	March 30, Sunday: Review, Reflect, Response	82
March 13, Thursday: Among You Stands One You Do Not Know	42	March 31, Monday: My Time Has Not Yet Come	84
March 14, Friday: Behold, the Lamb of God!	44	Missions Prayer: Home Missions: China and Japan Fellowships	86
March 15, Saturday: What Are You Seeking?	46		

contents

April Devotional

April 1, Tuesday: If Anyone Thirsts	88	April 18, Friday: That the Scriptures Might Be Fulfilled	126
April 2, Wednesday: Neither Do I Condemn You	90	April 19, Saturday: Refining Family	128
April 3, Thursday: I Am the Light of the World	92	Family Devotional: Good Friday: Death on the Cross	130
April 4, Friday: The Truth Will Set You Free	94	Sermon Notes	131
April 5, Saturday: One Thing I Do Know	96	April 20, Sunday: Review, Reflect, Response	132
Family Devotional: The Enemy of God	98	April 21, Monday: How Have I Been Maturing?	134
Sermon Notes	99	April 22, Tuesday: Trinity of Evil	136
April 6, Sunday: Review, Reflect, Response	100	April 23, Wednesday: Living in the Last Hour	138
April 7, Monday: I Am the Good Shepherd	102	April 24, Thursday: Doctrinal Warfare	140
April 8, Tuesday: No One Will Snatch Them	104	April 25, Friday: Detecting Heretics	142
April 9, Wednesday: He Stayed Two More Days	106	April 26, Saturday: Theology and Intimacy	144
April 10, Thursday: I Am the Resurrection and the Life	108	Family Devotional: Easter Sunday: He Is risen!	146
April 11, Friday: Lazarus, Come Out	110	Sermon Notes	147
April 12, Saturday: Leave Her Alone	112	April 27, Sunday: Review, Reflect, Response	148
Family Devotional: Jesus Enters Jerusalem	114	April 28, Monday: Take Personal Responsibility	150
Sermon Notes	115	April 29, Tuesday: Learning God's Word	152
April 13, Sunday: Review, Reflect, Response	116	April 30, Wednesday: Scripture and Spirit	154
April 14, Monday: Unless a Grain of Wheat Falls	118	Missions Prayer: East Asia Minorities	156
April 15, Tuesday: Who Has Believed	120	Worship Songs	158
April 16, Wednesday: Cried Out	122		
April 17, Thursday: Glorify the Son and Father	124		

foreword

by senior pastors

There must be something more in 2014!

There must be something more every new year!
We long for something deeper, something satisfying,
something radical, something life-changing, something
that would really make a difference every new year.
What will that "something more" be for you?

St. Augustine once said, *"To fall in love with God is the greatest of all romances; to seek Him, the greatest adventure; to find him, the greatest human achievement."* The deepest longing of the soul is for intimacy with God. It begins with God and is rooted IN HIM! *"One thing I have asked from the Lord, that I shall seek: That I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord and to meditate in His temple."* (Psalm 27:4)

1. Intimacy As Our PURPOSE In Life:

"One thing I have asked from the Lord..."

The goal of every disciple of Christ is not merely doing things for God – these are significant parts of God's redemptive order as seen in the Great Commission. Enjoying intimacy with God is part of the creative order as seen in the Great Commandment. The ONE thing that is the most important in 2014 is our relationship with God! Everything revolves around this one defining purpose.

2. Intimacy As Our PURSUIT In Life:

"...that I shall seek"

Someone once said, "We do not see things as they are. We see them as we are." In other words, who we are determines what we see and what we pursue, and we become what we pursue. "I shall seek" expresses a determination to pursue intimacy with God. What are you pursuing in 2014? What are you seeking?

There must be
something more
than this!

3. Intimacy As Our PREOCCUPATION In Life:

"That I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life..."

"All the days of my life" is not simply stating a period of time but a preoccupation of life! David declares "to dwell in the house of the Lord" as his prevailing desire, his grand preoccupation and his magnificent obsession. True spirituality stems not from some form of activity but from God's presence as the centre of his life. The dwelling place of God is in the quiet depths of our lives. May you experience and enjoy His presence throughout the year 2014!

4. Intimacy As Our PASSION In Life:

"To behold the beauty of the Lord and to meditate in His temple."

David made a decisive choice to not only see, but behold and be captivated by the beauty of the Lord. God was of ultimate importance in his life and God is the one who gives meaning to life. David committed himself to "meditate in His temple". A person is often defined by abilities, accomplishments, appearance, acquisitions and associations. But God defines us by our personal relationship with Him. May your passion for spiritual intimacy with God attract and fuel pre-believing friends to know God in 2014.

There Must Be Something More Than This!

Psalm 27 was written in the context of fear and uncertainty. Fear is mentioned three times in two verses (vv. 1, 3). Yet, in spite of the anxieties and fears, David focussed on God and saw God Almighty as his revelation, redemption and refuge (vv. 1-3).

May we like David says, *"When You said, 'Seek My face,' my heart said to You, 'Your face, O Lord, I shall seek'".* (v. 8).

***In Christ,
Ps Tony and Ps Kay Kiong***

guide to using this journal

Allow God to S.O.A.P. you with His Word and Spirit

Each daily devotional entry is divided into four parts:

- **Scripture** — Take your time to meditate on the Scripture passage for the day. Pause and mull over words and phrases that stand out for you.
- **Observation** — Jot down significant insights and reflections from the passage you have read. Use the guiding questions provided.
- **Application** — Note down a specific and practical commitment to God's Word for you. Is there a command to obey, a sin to avoid, an example to follow, or a principle to live out? Where appropriate, share your devotional entry with someone.
- **Prayer** — Bring your response to God in prayer using the suggested prayer for the day.

The English Standard Version (ESV) is the default Bible version translation unless otherwise specified.

preparing for 40 days of prayer

12 Mar - 19 Apr 2014

This year's 40 days of prayer is intentionally designed to coincide with the period of Lent. Lent is a season of prayer, fasting and self-denial as we walk with Jesus through the significant moments of His life and ministry, which will culminate with His crucifixion on Good Friday and resurrection on Easter Sunday. The devotional journal entries during this period will be based on the gospel of John, as a complement to our pulpit series on 1-3 John. You are encouraged to fast in some way as part of the experience - be it from food, TV or Internet!



The theme of this year's 40-day prayer season is **10:40**. Why 10:40? As an intentional disciple-making church, our simple aim is to spend **10 minutes daily** to pray towards reaching out to those who are lost during these 40 days. Our synchronised prayer times as a church are **10:00 am** and **10:00 pm** daily (choose one!). To help you pray, we have included a prayer focus each day. We really believe our prayers make a difference, because God works in answer to prayer. Join us for at least one of these two daily slots!

We would also love to hear your experience of this 40-day prayer journey. Email us at prayer@cefc.org.sg. May you meet Jesus afresh and thus make a difference with your prayers!

calendar

march 2014

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
31					1	2
3	4	5 Alpha Session 3/6	6	7	8	9
10	11	12 40-Day Prayer Begins Alpha Session 4/6	13	14 Women's GLOW	15 ZM Training 1/3	16
17	18	19 Alpha Session 5/6	20	21	22	23
24	25	26 Alpha Session 6/6	27	28 Prayer & Praise	29	30

Strongly Encouraged

april 2014

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
	1	2 CGL Training 1/4	3	4	5 Alpha Weekend	6 Annual General Meeting
7	8	9 CGL Training 2/4	10	11 Men's Summit	12	13 Baptism Service 2/4 Child Dedication
14 Dawn Prayer	15 Dawn Prayer	16 Dawn Prayer	17 Dawn Prayer	18 Good Friday/ Good Friday Service	19	20 Easter Sunday Service
21	22	23 CGL Training 3/4	24	25	26	27 Board Dedication
28	29	30 CGL Training 4/4				

Strongly Encouraged



review, reflect, response

REVIEW — Look back on your past week using the Examen (modified).

a. What was my high point?

b. What was my low point?

c. What gave me life?

d. What drained me?

e. How was the Spirit of God at work?



REFLECT — What is one key thing that God said to me this week in light of what has happened?

RESPONSE

a. What is one thing I need to do in light of what God is saying?

b. Journal your prayer.

March 3,
Monday
2014

Two Most Important Realities

SCRIPTURE

1 John 2:3-4; Isaiah 6:1-8

Two most important realities that we ought to be pursuing in life are knowing God and knowing ourselves. John talks about knowing God (“to know Him”, vv. 3-4) and knowing ourselves (“By this we know that we have...”, v. 3); and he interlinks the two ideas. It is self-knowledge when we know that we know God. The first statement made by John Calvin in his *Institutes of the Christian Religion* proper is, “Nearly all the wisdom we possess, that is to say, true and sound wisdom, consists of two parts: the knowledge of God and of ourselves.”¹ It is as we know God that we truly know ourselves. And as we know our true selves, we see our need to know God more. We come to see ourselves as God sees us when we know who God is. It is in this progressive mutual cause-effect dynamic, that we grow to know God deeper and see our true selves clearer. This dual knowledge is foundational to spiritual maturity.

OBSERVATION

What was Isaiah's experience of knowing God and knowing himself like (Isa 6:1-8)?

APPLICATION

How can I grow in knowing God and knowing myself?

PRAYER

God, what really matters in life is knowing You who is the Ultimate Reality; it is in knowing You that I know how and am able to live life most meaningfully and fruitfully. What truly matters before You, O God, is my heart, wherein lies the ultimate reality of what I am. Help me to seek to know You and to know my heart as You know it. Amen.

Prayer Pointers

- Give thanks:
- Pray for leaders:
- Pray for significant people:
- Pray for those in need:
- Pray for self:

¹ John Calvin, *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, The Library of Christian Classics, translated by Ford Lewis Battles, edited by John T. McNeil (Westminster John Knox, 1960), Vol. XX, 35

March 4,
Tuesday
2014

Knowing God: Where Am I Now?

SCRIPTURE

1 John 2:3-6; Isaiah 1:2-3, 10-17

Knowing God is a key idea in 1 John, which occurs 12 times in the epistle. Knowing God is a journey, and the journey is marked by process and progression. Knowing God begins at the concept level. We need to know something about God conceptually before we can know Him relationally. We must have a correct concept of God. Scripture calls it “sound doctrine” (Tit 1:9; 2:1). Concept must form conviction, which is what we “have learned and become convinced of” (2 Ti 3:14). Conviction must lead to commitment, which is to “keep His commandments” (vv. 3-4) and “remain in Him” (v. 6). Commitment is relational in nature. Commitment develops closeness in our relationship with God, where we really know God personally. Closeness to God builds character and develops Christlikeness (“to walk in the same manner as He walked”, v. 6). Where am I now in my journey of knowing God?

OBSERVATION

What can you learn about knowing God in Isaiah 1:2-3, 10-17?

APPLICATION

How does Israel’s condition in knowing God challenge me in knowing God?

PRAYER

God, You have created and redeemed me that You may walk with me, and me with You. Grant me each day to see You more clearly, walk with You more nearly and love You more dearly, that I may know You, my Father, Your Son the Lord Jesus and the Holy Spirit – the Sacred Three – in greater spiritual breadth and length and height and depth.² Amen

Prayer Pointers

- Give thanks:
- Pray for leaders:
- Pray for significant people:
- Pray for those in need:
- Pray for self:

² Ephesians 3:18; Job 11:7-9

March 5,
Wednesday
2014

Knowing Myself: What's the Real Me?

SCRIPTURE

1 John 2:4; 1 Corinthians 15:10

There are three kinds of persons who say "I have come to know Him" (v. 4). The first is one who honestly and humbly knows that he knows God, and it is true in God's eyes. The second is one who thinks he knows God, but in reality it is not true and he is not aware of it. And the third is one who claims to know God and he knows that it is not true. Scripture calls the latter two liars. The third person is a blatant liar and the second is a self-deceiving liar; in both cases the truth about God and themselves is not in them. However, those who truly know God cannot "wholly satisfy the Law (to) keep His commandments (and no such instance can be found in the world), but (they) strive, according to the capacity of human infirmity, to form their life in obedience to God" (John Calvin). Do I know myself? What is the real me?

OBSERVATION

How does Paul describe his knowledge of himself in 1 Corinthians 15:10?

APPLICATION

How can I know the real me?

PRAYER

All-knowing God, I can never overemphasise in my life before You that my heart is more deceitful than all else;³ therefore, above all else, I must guard my heart with all vigilance and diligence.⁴ How I daily need the work and help of the Holy Spirit to expose my inner darkness, and enlighten and empower my heart to walk rightly with You. Amen.

Prayer Pointers

- Give thanks:
- Pray for leaders:
- Pray for significant people:
- Pray for those in need:
- Pray for self:

³ Jeremiah 17:9
⁴ Proverbs 4:23

March 6,
Thursday
2014

Following Jesus: "What Would Jesus Do?"

SCRIPTURE

1 John 2:6; John 5:19-20, 30

God has called us to walk as Jesus walked (v. 6). What does that mean? We are taught that in situations when we don't know what to do, just ask, "What would Jesus do?" It is a helpful guiding question but the question cannot be answered absolutely. There are things that Jesus can do that we cannot, and there are situations when Jesus does things differently. Of course, it presupposes that we know Jesus enough to ask that guiding question. Consider John 12:3-8. It seems incongruent that Jesus who "came not to be served, but to serve" (Mk 10:45) did not advise Mary to sell the perfume worth a rural worker's one-year wages to give to the needy (vv. 3, 5). Isn't ministering to the needy the natural Jesus-thing to do? In this case, Jesus appears to be rather "egoistic" to let Mary waste the "very costly perfume" on His feet (vv. 3, 7), and is unapologetic that He is more important than the poor (v. 8). John gives us some idea how we can walk as Jesus walked (John 5:19-20, 30).

OBSERVATION

How did Jesus live His life on earth according to John 5:19-20, 30?

APPLICATION

What is an area of my life in which I need to learn to walk as Jesus walked?

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, while You were walking on the earth, You so subjected Yourself to Your Father that even as the Son of God, You can do nothing of Yourself or on Your own initiative.⁵ You act as You see Your Father doing and hear what He is saying to You. Open my eyes to see and my ears to hear God like You, that I may walk as You walked. Amen.

Prayer Pointers

- Give thanks:
- Pray for leaders:
- Pray for significant people:
- Pray for those in need:
- Pray for self:

⁵ John 5:19,30

March 7,
Friday
2014

Obeying God: What Does God Say?

SCRIPTURE

1 John 2:3-6; Ezekiel 24:15-24

To walk as Jesus walked (v. 6) is essentially living a life of obedience. Obedience may be simply defined as "Whatever He says to you, do it" (Jn 2:5). Obedience asks "What does God say?" Scripture shows us three modes of obedience. Objective obedience: This is obeying God's commandments as revealed in Scripture (vv. 3-4). It asks "What does Scripture say?" (Ro 4:3). Subjective obedience: Jesus came to do the will of His Father (Jn 4:34; 17:4). Jesus did not heal every single sick person in Palestine, even though He had the power to do so. He lived and served as God directed Him specifically; this included the timing of His actions ("My hour", Jn 2:4; 13:1). Subjective obedience requires sensitivity to God's voice, and spiritual sensitivity is developed as we practice objective obedience. Passive obedience: This is submitting to God, trusting in Him in situations, especially the unpleasant ones, which He has sovereignly and purposefully allowed. Jesus suffered from His betrayal until His crucifixion in passive obedience.

OBSERVATION

What do you observe about obedience and God's commandment in Ezekiel 24:15-24?

APPLICATION

How does Ezekiel's experience in relation to God's commandment challenge or encourage me?

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, through Your experience of humanity You understand and appreciate that delighting in doing God's will includes moments when such obedience is difficult. You have in agony prayed, "Father, if You are willing, remove this cup from Me."⁶ Thank you, Lord, that in my Garden of Gethsemane, You are already there with me. Amen.

Prayer Pointers

- Give thanks:
- Pray for leaders:
- Pray for significant people:
- Pray for those in need:
- Pray for self:

⁶ Luke 22:42, 44

March 8,
Saturday
2014

Following Jesus: Where's God Leading Me?

SCRIPTURE

1 John 2:6 with 3:2; Romans 8:28-30

When we are wandering through a desolate wilderness, weathering a turbulent storm, groping in a prolonged darkness or struggling in the lowest pit, we often find ourselves asking "Where is God leading me in this?" The secondary answer to the question has to do with God's distinctive purposes for us individually. The primary answer is true for every follower of Jesus to grow "to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ" (Eph 4:13). This should be the centre and compass of our lives: "to walk in the same manner as He walked" (v. 6), because it is God's conclusion for life on earth that "when He appears (Christ's Second Coming), we will be like Him" (1 Jn 3:2). We tend to be preoccupied with asking the secondary question: "Where am I going?" However painful and perplexing our journey may be, we can still move on in life toward our known destiny, asking the primary question: "How am I growing?"

OBSERVATION

How should we view suffering in the context of Romans 8:28-30 (context: human suffering in the decaying creation, Ro 8:18-25)?

APPLICATION

What change(s) do I need to make in my perspective on suffering?

PRAYER

God of goodness, it is so easy for me to think and expect that when You work all things together for good in my bitter times, the "good" means better times in external and physical terms. Help me to grasp in my heart that the "good" refers to character building; thus, according to Your wisdom, the transformation process may mean greater adversity. Amen.

Prayer Pointers

- Give thanks:

- Pray for leaders:

- Pray for significant people:

- Pray for those in need:

- Pray for self:



review, reflect, response

REVIEW — Look back on your past week using the Examen (modified).

a. What was my high point?

b. What was my low point?

c. What gave me life?

d. What drained me?

e. How was the Spirit of God at work?



REFLECT — What is one key thing that God said to me this week in light of what has happened?

RESPONSE

a. What is one thing I need to do in light of what God is saying?

b. Journal your prayer.

March 11,
Tuesday
2014

Leaving the Light, Living in Darkness

SCRIPTURE

1 John 2:9-11; 1 Corinthians 13:1-3

"The one who loves his brother abides in the Light" (v. 10) because God is Light (1 Jn 1:5) and God is Love (1 Jn 4:8, 16). Walking in the light enables us to love; when we love, it is evident that we walk in the light. The opposite of love is hatred (vv. 9, 11). John warns that it is possible for a Christian to "hate his brother" (v. 11) when he leaves the light and lives in darkness. By "hatred" John "does not necessarily mean positive animosity but mere lack of love. Lack of love can blind a man's spiritual vision as effectively as the prejudice arising from hatred does, so that he is tripped up by all kinds of moral obstacles that lie in life's way, and is disabled from forming ethical decisions which are crystal-clear to his brother whose love of heart and hand maintains him in fellowship with God, in whose light he sees."¹¹ Develop this in your dominant consciousness: In everything you think, feel, say or do, ask yourself, "Is it a loving thing, or, is it an unloving thing?"

OBSERVATION

What does Paul say about love in 1 Corinthians 13:1-3?

APPLICATION

What are some unloving things I have done that I need to deal with?

PRAYER

O God of love, we ask You to give us love – love in our thinking, in our speaking, in our doing and in the hidden places of our souls; love of those with whom we find it hard to bear, and those who find it hard to bear with us; love of those with whom we work, and those with whom we take our ease; that we may be worthy to dwell with You who is eternal love. Amen.¹²

Prayer Pointers

- Give thanks:
- Pray for leaders:
- Pray for significant people:
- Pray for those in need:
- Pray for self:

¹¹ F. F. Bruce, *The Epistles of John* (Pickering Paperback, 1970, 1978), 56-57
¹² Adapted from William Temple (1881-1944), Angela Ashwin, 52

March 12,
Wednesday
2014

In the Beginning Was the Word



SCRIPTURE

John 1:1-5, 9-18

Of all the ways that John the Apostle could have introduced Jesus in his gospel, he chose to introduce Him as the Word. Why not portray Jesus as the Light of the world, the Lamb of God or the Living Bread? Surely these are worthy ways to describe Jesus, as we shall see in the gospel of John. The opening of John 1:1 (“In the beginning”) mirrors that of Genesis when God created the heavens and the earth (Ge 1:1), by speaking it into being (“And God said...”¹³). God’s word is the means by which He created (Ps 33:6).

According to standard Jewish doctrine during the time of the apostle John, the word (which God used to create) existed before the rest of creation, and was itself created.¹⁴ But John asserted that this was not so, because the word was Jesus Himself! Before Jesus came in the flesh to save us (v. 14), He was first of all the Creator who made us (v. 3) and owned us (v. 11). It is important to put first things first, and see first things first.

OBSERVATION

What else does John 1:1-5, 9-18 say about Jesus as the Word? See also Hebrews 1:2.

APPLICATION

How should knowing Jesus as my Creator change the way I relate to Him?

PRAYER

Creator of all that is and all that lives, You came down from heaven to be with those who were Your own. Let your powerful Word create order out of my chaos and do Your work of re-creation in me. Imprint in me, in even greater measure, Your very image for the world to see. Living Word Incarnate, God’s one and only, revealed in glory, abounding in grace and truth, come and take Your rightful place as my Creator, who made me and owns me and dwells in me. This creation of Yours ponders Your glory and lingers to worship You.¹⁵ Amen.

PRAY@10:00 AM/PM

For your pre-believing friends that they will discover Jesus as their Creator.

¹³ Genesis 1:3, 1:6, 1:9, 1:11, 1:14, 1:20, 1:24, 1:26

¹⁴ Keener, C. S., & InterVarsity Press. (1993). *The IVP Bible background commentary: New Testament* (Jn 1:1). Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press

¹⁵ Prayer adapted from <http://www.deeper-devotion.net/prayers-to-the-living-word.html>. Copyright © 2006-2012 Deeper Devotion. Used with permission.

March 13,
Thursday
2014

Among You Stands One You Do Not Know



10:40

SCRIPTURE

John 1:6-8, 19-28

John the Baptist came into the scene with a two-fold ministry of proclaiming and baptising. His appearance and ministry did not seem to fit into the categories that the Jewish people understood of priests and Levites in those days¹⁶, yet people came in droves to hear him in the wilderness (Mt 3:5). So the Jews were naturally curious - was he the greatest of prophets like Elijah who would return to instruct the Jews? But notice that his priority was not for people to understand him. His answers were short and sharp ("I am not the Christ", v. 20; "I am not" and "No" v. 21); "No", v. 22) so as to end all speculation. Because his priority was for them to understand Jesus! John the Baptist did not want to take centre stage, though he was certainly capable of doing so. After all, he drew crowds just like how Jesus would! But his baptising ministry was simply a foreshadow of the greater Baptiser who could change hearts in a way he could not do with the Spirit he did not have and usher in a kingdom which he did not rule. Let Jesus return to the spotlight!

OBSERVATION

How is Jesus described in relation to John the Baptist in John 1:6-8, 19-28? (See also Mt 3:13-16)

APPLICATION

What are some ways I can intentionally have Jesus back on centre stage and in the spotlight in my life and ministry?

PRAYER

O Light who desires to shine through me, make me aware when my spirit has grown dark or dull. Take me into Your hands and cause me to shine for You again.¹⁷ Shine Your Light on me, let the people see that in Your presence, darkness flees. Lord of Light, shine down on me. Let me be Your light that keeps reaching to the people of every land. Let me be Your love that You long to pour into the heart of every man. Lord of Light, shine down on me.¹⁸ Take now Your rightful place in my life and ministry as the preeminent Light. Amen.

PRAY@10:00 AM/PM

That you will have Jesus on centre stage in your conversations with pre-believers.

¹⁶ Longenecker, Richard N., John and Acts. Minneapolis: Liturgical Press, 1981. Vol. 9 of The Expositor's Bible Commentary, John 1:9. Ed. Frank E. Gæbelein. 12 vols. 1976-92

¹⁷ Prayer adapted from <http://www.deeper-devotion.net/prayers-to-the-living-word.html>. Copyright © 2006-2012 Deeper Devotion. Used with permission.

¹⁸ Adapted from the song *Shine Down* by Sandy Patti

March 14,
Friday
2014

Behold, the Lamb of God!



SCRIPTURE

John 1:19-34

John the Baptist came to bear witness about Jesus (v. 34). Yet he said this about Jesus: "I myself did not know Him" (vv. 31, 33). Which sounds strange – how could John the Baptist not know Jesus, especially when they were relatives (Lk 1:36)? Perhaps they were living apart for most of the time.¹⁹ In all likelihood though, the person John the Baptist said he did not know was not Jesus his relative but the coming Messiah, who would fulfill the longing of Israel to be delivered from their slavery to Rome. But he did know that this Messiah who was before him in rank and in time (v. 29), would be revealed to Israel (v. 31), would have the Holy Spirit descend and remain on Him (v. 33) and would baptise with the Holy Spirit (v. 33). John the Baptist simply had not met Him yet. Or so he thought! And in coming full circle now, after seeing his relative, Jesus, with a new revelation given by the Spirit, he declared with utmost conviction, "Behold, the Lamb of God!" (v. 29). May you bear witness to Jesus afresh by coming full circle to rediscover Him.

OBSERVATION

What did John the Baptist bear witness to about Jesus (vv. 29, 32, 34)? Describe it in your own words.

APPLICATION

What can I say to others about Jesus today as part of my journey of bearing witness about Him?

PRAYER

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world. You are seated at the right hand of the Father. You alone are the Lord and the Most High.²⁰ Open my mind and heart to know You all over again. Lamb of God, Holy One, Jesus Christ, Son of God, lifted up willingly to die. That I, the guilty one, may know the blood once shed, still freely flowing, still cleansing, still healing. I exalt You, Jesus my Sacrifice. I exalt You, my Redeemer and my Lord. I exalt You, worthy Lamb of God. And in honour I bow down before Your throne.²¹ Amen.

PRAY@10:00 AM/PM

For God-given opportunities to declare to others who Jesus is to you.

¹⁹ As suggested by some scholars. Jamieson, R., Fausset, A. R. and Brown, D., Jamieson-Fausset-Brown Commentary, John 1:31, Henrickson Publishers, Peabody, MA 1997

²⁰ Adapted from the liturgy of the Church of England

²¹ From the song *Lamb of God* by Chris Bowater



review, reflect, response

REVIEW — Look back on your past week using the Examen (modified).

a. What was my high point?

b. What was my low point?

c. What gave me life?

d. What drained me?

e. How was the Spirit of God at work?



REFLECT — What is one key thing that God said to me this week in light of what has happened?

RESPONSE

a. What is one thing I need to do in light of what God is saying?

b. Journal your prayer.

March 17,
Monday
2014

Come and See



10:40

SCRIPTURE

John 1:43-51

In his book, *The Reason For God*, Timothy Keller describes how there are two camps that are gaining constituents when it comes to religion. At one end, more people are getting spiritual. Those embracing traditional and orthodox faiths are on the rise, though they were expected to thin out in the rapidly changing modern world. At the other end, more people are also getting skeptical. Faith and religion are simply absurd or incoherent to them.²³ Regardless of which camp people may belong to, what radically changes a person's view of God is not more debates (though they certainly have a place), but a personal encounter with Him. Such was the experience of Nathanael. His initial skepticism of "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" (v. 46) was transformed to "Rabbi, You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" (v. 49). Simply because he met Jesus, or rather, because Jesus met him (v. 47). But Nathanael also needed to take a simple but important step to "come and see" (v. 46), as invited by Philip. Sometimes that's what it takes, and that's all it takes!

OBSERVATION

What roles did both Philip and Jesus play in this partnership of bringing Nathanael to faith?

APPLICATION

How can I help my pre-believing friends take steps to discover Jesus even if they may be skeptical?

PRAYER

O Lord, You have searched me and known me. You know when I sit and when I rise. You perceive my thoughts from afar. You know my going out and my coming in. You are familiar with all my ways. Before a word is on my tongue, You know it completely, O Lord. Where can I go from Your Spirit? Where can I flee from Your presence? Search me, O God, and know my heart. Test me, and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any wicked way in me and lead me in the way everlasting.²⁴ Amen.

PRAY@10:00 AM/PM

For your pre-believing friends to have the desire to come and see, and have a personal life-changing encounter with Jesus as a result.

²³ Keller, T., *The Reason For God - Believe In An Age Of Skepticism*. pp ix-x. Penguin: NY. 2008

²⁴ Psalm 139:1-4, 7, 23-24

March 18,
Tuesday
2014

The First Sign



10:40

SCRIPTURE

John 2:1-12

This was the first recorded miracle of Jesus in the gospel of John. "Notice the simplicity of this account, how easily, how quietly...this was done. He says simply, 'Fill the jars with water.' And they filled them to the brim... Then Jesus said, 'Now draw some out and take it to the steward of the feast.' There was no prayer, no word of command, no hysterical shouting, no pleading with a screwed-up face, no laying on of hands, no binding of Satan, no hocus-pocus or mumbo-jumbo - nothing. He did not even touch the water. He did not even taste it afterward to see if it had happened. He simply said, 'Take it to the governor of the feast...'"²⁵ And the water was turned into wine along the way! Very often, the miracles that God does in our lives may not be considered spectacular - or at least not in the way we understand it. Instead, they often fall into the category of the simple, which we may miss if we are not attuned to the activity of God. They may even come in unconventional ways, such as in jars for religious rituals (v. 6) rather than jugs for wedding parties.

OBSERVATION

What impact did Jesus' first miracle have on the master of the wedding feast and the disciples (vv. 9-12)?

APPLICATION

How can I stay attuned to the activity of God throughout the day?

PRAYER

God of wonders, You who transformed the nature of water to wine can also transform the nature of my heart from hardness to tenderness. Let my heart be ready for this adventure of seeing You at work. Reveal Your glory in my life, that I may be led from faith to faith. Keep me in tune and in step with You today as You work in me and through me.

Reveal Your glory through my life, that others around me may see and know that Jesus Christ is alive and He is truly Lord and Saviour of all.

In Your name and for Your glory I ask, Amen.

PRAY@10:00 AM/PM

For your pre-believing friends that God will intervene in their lives so that they will know Jesus is real and alive.

²⁵ Ray Stedman, <http://www.raystedman.org/daily-devotions/john-1to12/water-to-wine>. Copyright © 2007 by Elaine Stedman. Used with permission.

March 19,
Wednesday
2014

Zeal for Your House Will Consume Me



SCRIPTURE

John 2:13-25

What Jesus did probably shocked everyone and stuck out like a sore thumb, especially when buying and selling in the temple was commonly accepted by the people. Nobody complained about it or saw anything wrong with it. In fact, it was helping the Jews on the Passover pilgrimage to the temple because they did not have to carry their own animals and risk injuring them along the way, which would have made them unfit as Passover lambs when they commemorated the event with their households (Ex 12:5). Even if Jesus disagreed, he did not have to rock the boat like that. Imagine the doves flying, oxen and sheep running, and coins spilling all over the temple grounds when He turned the place upside down! Wasn't Jesus overreacting? Under the supervision of the priests, the temple had become a means of making money and it got debased and desecrated into a business venture.²⁶ The house of prayer (Mt 21:13) had become a house of trade (v. 16). He was consumed with the desire for God to return to His temple.

OBSERVATION

Compare the responses of the Jews (vv. 18-21) with that of the disciples (v. 17, 22). Why is there a difference between the two responses?

APPLICATION

What am I zealous about in my life?

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, zeal for Your Father's house consumed You and the reproaches of those who reproached Him fell upon You.²⁷ You were prepared to face confrontation and suffer ridicule because Your desire for God's glory outweighed everything else. Make me such a disciple, Lord, where a consuming passion for Your glory and name outweighs and overrides my desire for convenience, popularity and the comforts of this life. Let me accept no more excuses. Until zeal for Your name and glory consumes me. Amen.

PRAY@10:00 AM/PM

For your cell group and CEFC to be consumed by a zeal for God, such that we are willing to come out of our comfort zones to tell others about Jesus.

²⁶ Longenecker, John 2:13-14
²⁷ Psalm 69:9

March 21,
Friday
2014

He Must Increase, I Must Decrease



SCRIPTURE

John 3: 22-36

Two prominent religious leaders were baptising people simultaneously. Which baptism should the Jews choose? Which ritual purification is more valid?²⁸ The disciples of John the Baptist were concerned that he would be eclipsed by this Jesus who appeared at the scene after him. "Rabbi, look at what is happening. Everyone is going to this miracle worker. You are losing ground. Aren't you going to do something to gain back 'market share'?" They obviously regarded John the Baptist highly and wanted him to outshine his "rival" and outdo his "competition". But notice that instead of being pressured to do something, he restated the purpose of his work by making clear the distinction between himself and Jesus. He was actually the best man helping the groom to receive the bride.²⁹ His role was complementary rather than competitive. His job was actually to help Jesus succeed! And the joy that he had (v. 29) was actually found in knowing that his job was done, not whether he got the limelight. He must increase, we must decrease.

OBSERVATION

What other differences are highlighted between John the Baptist and Jesus (vv. 31-36)?

APPLICATION

In what way must I decrease so that Jesus can increase?

PRAYER

Fairest Lord Jesus, Ruler of all nature, You shine brighter and purer than all the angels heaven can boast. Beautiful Saviour! Lord of all the nations! Son of God and Son of Man! None can be nearer, fairer or dearer than You, my Saviour, are to me. You I will cherish and honour. For You are my soul's glory, joy and crown. All glory and honour, praise and adoration, be now and forever more Yours.³⁰ Let me therefore decrease and You increase, until all that people see is the beauty and glory of my Lord and Saviour alone living in me. Amen.

PRAY@10:00 AM/PM

That your pre-believing friends will see the beauty and glory of Jesus, and recognise in awe that there is none who can compare with Him.

²⁸ Longenecker, Jn 2:13-14. See also John 2:6 which shows the use of water for purification.

²⁹ Keener, Craig S.: *The IVP Bible Background Commentary: New Testament*. electronic ed. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 1997, c1993, S. John 3:29

³⁰ Adapted from the hymn *Fairest Lord Jesus*.

March 22,
Saturday
2014

He *HAD* to Pass through Samaria



SCRIPTURE

John 4:1-18

Divine appointments. They often do not come at the most convenient of times. There were so many reasons for Jesus not to meet the Samaritan woman. Jews do not like to pass through Samaria because they regard Samaritans as unclean. Coming into contact with Samaritans would defile them.³¹ Jesus was tired and he should have gone to rest instead of staying outside. It was about noon (v. 6), the worst time to be outdoors. There had been hostility between these two races for centuries³², so starting and sustaining a decent conversation with a Samaritan was a challenge to say the least, much less speaking to a Samaritan woman, which would have defied the social norms then. As though that was not challenging enough, Jesus pointed His finger at her past marriages that had failed (v. 18) – pretty awkward if you are meeting someone for the first time! Yet at the end of it, she said, “Come see a man who told me all I ever did. Can this be the Christ?” (Jn 4:29). It led not just to her conversion but that of her town folks as well (“...we know that this is indeed the Saviour of the world”, Jn 4:42).

OBSERVATION

What was the Samaritan woman's longing as described by Jesus and herself (vv. 13, 20-26)?

APPLICATION

What helps me see divine appointments as divine interventions rather than human interruptions?

PRAYER

Lord of the Harvest, the fields are indeed white to harvest.³³ You call me to both sow and reap the harvest now. Lift up my eyes to see the many souls who are thirsty today. Many are trapped in darkness and need the light. Help me to begin where I am. Help me to love the people near me and near Your heart. Give my faith a mission field wherever and whenever and however You may call. Love them through me until You have touched them all.³⁴ Your food was to do the will of Him who sent You. Let that be my food as well, that will sustain me today.

In Your name I ask, Amen.

PRAY@10:00 AM/PM

For your pre-believing friends to see the deep longings and desires in their own hearts, and realise only Jesus can meet them fully.

³¹ Longenecker, John 4:1-3

³² Keener, John 4:3

³³ John 4:35

³⁴ Adapted from the song *As Bread That Is Broken* by Claire Cloninger and Paul Baloche



review, reflect, response

REVIEW — Look back on your past week using the Examen (modified).

a. What was my high point?

b. What was my low point?

c. What gave me life?

d. What drained me?

e. How was the Spirit of God at work?



REFLECT — What is one key thing that God said to me this week in light of what has happened?

RESPONSE

a. What is one thing I need to do in light of what God is saying?

b. Journal your prayer.

March 24,
Monday
2014

Your Son Will Live



10:40

SCRIPTURE

John 4:43-54

What was a desperate man to do when his child was close to death? As an official working in the royal court³⁵, he had the money and connections to get the best doctors. But even the best doctors could not do much except to make his son more comfortable as he came to the end of his life. The man's only option was to call upon Someone whom he heard had come into his town and turned water into wine. He thought that if only Jesus could come to his house (v. 49), perhaps lay His hand upon his son, utter some prayer mantra and call upon God, his son would be healed. Little did he expect Jesus to simply say, "Go, your son will live." (v. 50) Jesus didn't just answer the man's request, He exceeded it! "This story tells us that we are in the hands of One who does not always answer our prayers the way we expect, but in doing so He lifts us to a higher awareness of who He is, of His authority and power in the world and in life. Our faith, as a result, becomes stronger, cleaner and truer. We are enabled to exercise it at a far higher level."³⁶

OBSERVATION

How was Jesus' reply to the official (v. 50) a test of his faith in Him?

APPLICATION

How can my faith in God grow to be become "stronger, cleaner and truer"?

PRAYER

Ah Lord God, You are the mighty God who made the heavens and the earth by Your outstretched arm and great power. Nothing is indeed too difficult for You.³⁷ Your arm is never too short to save.³⁸ How this story speaks to me about (name the situation you are facing). Grant that I may face it with a renewed trust in You, knowing that You are able to do all things and are strengthening my faith through it.³⁹ Help me hear Your word directing me and guide me to obey it in faith so that Your glory may be revealed and Your name be praised. Amen.

PRAY@10:00 AM/PM

That your pre-believing friends will come to Jesus knowing that He is their only help in times of need, and they may see Him do wonders in their lives and believe.

³⁵ As agreed by most scholars. Longenecker, John 4:46

³⁶ Ray Stedman, <http://www.raystedman.org/daily-devotions/john-1to12/faiths-encouragement>. Copyright © 2007 by Elaine Stedman. Used with permission.

³⁷ Jeremiah 32:17

³⁸ Isaiah 59:1

³⁹ Adapted from Ray Stedman, <http://www.raystedman.org/daily-devotions/john-1to12/faiths-encouragement>. Copyright © 2007 by Elaine Stedman. Used with permission.

March 26,
Wednesday
2014

Doing What the Father Does



10:40

SCRIPTURE

John 5:19-29

The Jews wanted to persecute Jesus and even kill Him if possible. Not only did He heal during the Sabbath, which in their minds would mean breaking the Law, He even called God “His Father” (v. 18) and gave Himself the right to work on the Sabbath (v. 17) – a right which only God Himself had. How dare He! The second claim was even more punishment-worthy than the first. But notice Jesus’ reply: He was simply doing what God the Father wanted Him to do, even if it meant defying conventional religious norms. God intended the Sabbath to be a day not just for His people to stop work or activity but, more importantly, to be free from bondage. That was why the Sabbath was instituted for Israel after slavery in Egypt (Ex 20:10) where they had been working 24-7-365. In healing the invalid man (Jn 5:9), Jesus was setting him free from the bondage of his crippled body as a little glimpse of the resurrection that was to come (v. 29) where we would be truly and totally free from all bondage. The Jews had missed not only the purpose behind the Sabbath but the Person behind the Sabbath!

OBSERVATION

How is Jesus working according to the Father’s will (vv. 19, 21, 22, 26, 27)?

APPLICATION

What do I need to do in order to act according to God’s will for my life today?

PRAYER

Take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord, to You. Take my moments and my days, let them flow with ceaseless praise. Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of Your love. Take my feet and let them be swift and beautiful for You. Take my voice and let me sing always only for my King. Take my lips and let them be filled with messages from You. Take my silver and my gold, not a mite would I withhold. Take my intellect and use every power that You would choose. Take my will and make it Yours. It shall be no longer mine. Take my heart, it is Your own. It shall be Your royal throne.⁴¹ Amen.

PRAY@10:00 AM/PM

For Your pre-believing friends to see that Jesus is truly both the Son of Man and the Son of God.

⁴¹ Modernised from the hymn *Take My Life and Let It Be* by Frances Ridley Havergal

March 27,
Thursday
2014

These Bear Witness



SCRIPTURE

John 5:30-47

Standing in the dock as the defendant, Jesus decided that it was time to answer the charges that the Pharisees laid against Him. And He did it not only with style but also with substance by surpassing what the Law required. Moses required at least two or three witnesses in order for a charge to be valid (Dt 17:6). Jesus showed that He had five. These were His witnesses:

1. John the Baptist (vv. 32-35) - whose message the Pharisees accepted and rejoiced in, and was widely accepted.
2. His works (v. 36) - for no one could do the miracles He did unless God sent Him (Jn 3:2).
3. God the Father (vv. 37-38) - who Himself gave approval during His baptism (Mt 3:17).
4. The Scriptures (vv. 39, 46-47) - which all pointed to Him as the coming One (Lk 24:44).
5. Moses (vv. 46-47) - whom the Pharisees revered and whose law they kept to, and who now accuses them.

The irony was that the Pharisees would not believe Jesus who had five witnesses but would believe someone who didn't have any (v. 43).

OBSERVATION

What prevented the Pharisees from believing in Jesus (vv. 35, 38, 43-44)?

APPLICATION

What hinders me from receiving and believing all that God wants to do in my life?

PRAYER

Have Your own way, Lord! Have Your own way! You are the Potter, I am the clay. Mould me and make me after Your will while I am waiting, yielded and still. Have Your own way, Lord! Have Your own way! Search me and try me, Master, today. Whiter than snow, Lord, wash me just now. As in Your presence humbly I bow. Have Your own way, Lord! Have Your own way! Wounded and weary, help me, I pray. Power, all power, surely is Yours. Touch me and heal me, Saviour divine. Have Your own way, Lord! Have Your own way! Hold over my being absolute sway. Fill with Your Spirit till all shall see Christ only, always, living in me.⁴² Amen.

PRAY@10:00 AM/PM

For God to remove any barriers of unbelief in the hearts of your pre-believing friends, so that they will have open and objective minds and hearts to hear the claims of Jesus.

⁴² From the hymn *Have Thine Own Way, Lord* by Adelaide A. Pollard

March 28,
Friday
2014

Take Courage - I AM!



10:40

SCRIPTURE

John 6:1-21

Jesus had set before His disciples two tasks that were humanly impossible to fulfill. One was to feed thousands of people with neither enough money (v. 7) nor food (v. 9). Turning the crowd away was not an option. All they had were grass (v. 10). Unless the crowd became cows, they had a real problem! Another was to row across the Sea of Galilee in the middle of the night with waves so rough and a gale so strong that they were unlikely to make it to the other side.⁴³ Turning back was not an option since they were about halfway across (v. 19).⁴⁴ Was Jesus out to sabotage His disciples? Notice the work of God - 12 baskets full of leftovers from the poverty picnic (v. 13). All they had to do was to hand over to Jesus what they had, not what they did not have. And when Jesus got into the boat while they were in the middle of the sea, immediately they were at the other side (v. 21). They were divinely teleported across the remaining distance of another few miles! All they had to do was receive Him into the boat (v. 21) because He came to them.

OBSERVATION

How did Jesus' disciples respond to Him while in the midst of their challenges (vv. 7, 9, 19)?

APPLICATION

How will I respond to God when tasked with a challenge that seems to be beyond my capability or resources?

PRAYER

Lord, You see the state of my soul in the midst of all that is happening. My strength fails me. I see and feel only my weakness. But Lord, You are the strength of my heart!⁴⁵ Set free, O Lord, my soul from all restlessness and anxiety. Give me that peace and power which can flow only from You.

Keep me in all perplexities and distresses, in all fears and faithlessness, that so upheld by Your power and stayed on the rock of Your faithfulness, I may through storm and stress remain in You.⁴⁶ As You bring me to the end of my resources, let me behold my God who supplies my every need according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus.⁴⁷ Amen.

PRAY@10:00 AM/PM

For your pre-believing friends to meet a God who is an ever-present help in the midst of their trials and troubles.

⁴³ Longenecker, John 6:18

⁴⁴ The Sea of Galilee is about 13 miles long and 8 miles wide. http://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sea_of_Galilee

⁴⁵ Psalm 73:26

⁴⁶ Adapted from New Every Morning

⁴⁷ Philippians 4:19

March 29,
Saturday
2014

I Am the Bread of Life



SCRIPTURE

John 6:24-40

Motivations. They often determine if we will last in following Jesus. The crowds were motivated by their own agendas. They wanted to see the miraculous signs (Jn 6:2), force Jesus to become a political king (Jn 6:15), be fed again by Jesus (v. 26) and replicate the miracles they saw (v. 28). But Jesus separated the sheep from the goats with a very jarring statement: "I Am The Bread of Life who came down from heaven (vv. 33, 35, 41)". They saw Him as a prophet (Jn 6:14) and rabbi (v. 25). But not as one who was the Bread of Life from heaven! The bread from heaven that Moses gave Israel in the wilderness would turn mouldy and rot. But this Bread from heaven lives on forever and gives new life to those who believe (v. 33). The bread from Moses could satisfy the physical hunger of the Israelites for a day, but this Bread from heaven will satisfy our spiritual hunger forever (v. 35). The bread from heaven during the time of Moses was simply pointing us to its ultimate fulfillment in Christ. Jesus born in Bethlehem⁴⁸ is the Bread whom God the Father invites us to partake of and never die.

OBSERVATION

What motivated the 12 to stay while the rest of the disciples started leaving Jesus (Jn 6:66-69)?

APPLICATION

What keeps me following Jesus even when the world turns away?

PRAYER

Guide me, O great Jehovah. I am a pilgrim through this barren land. I am weak but You are mighty, hold me with Your powerful hand. Bread of heaven, Bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more! Feed me till I want no more. Open now the crystal fountain, where the healing stream does flow. Let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through. Lord,

I trust in Your mighty power, wondrous are Your works of old.
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer, be still my strength and shield!

Be still my strength and shield.⁴⁹ Amen.

PRAY@10:00 AM/PM

For your pre-believing friends to be awakened to the spiritual hunger in their lives and come to Jesus to be truly, totally and eternally satisfied.

⁴⁸ Which means "house of bread". <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bethlehem>

⁴⁹ From the hymn *Guide Me Thou O Great Jehovah* by William Williams

March 31,
Monday
2014

My Time Has Not Yet Come



SCRIPTURE

John 7:1-9, 14-24

Jesus would not follow the programmes and timings that the people had for Him. His brothers suggested that He go to Feast of Booths (or Tabernacles) right at the start, so as to gain popularity and more followers (vv. 3-4) since all Jewish men were required to be there for this annual festival (Dt 16:16). It was an opportunity He should grab! But if He had done so, it would have spelt disaster. Because He would have fed the curiosity and anticipation of the crowd who was divided about Him (Jn 7:11-13) and waiting for Him to appear (Jn 7:11). Instead, He chose to sneak in halfway (v. 14) to let the dust settle first and go under their radar. He also knew that the world hated him (v. 7). But that did not stop him from teaching, even if what He taught would anger the authorities or upset the crowd. In His life and ministry, Jesus had one unchanging compass that directed Him. Because He was sent by God the Father (Jn 7:16, 33), He would go, teach and do miracles – whenever, wherever, whatever and however – according to God’s agenda and not his own (Jn 7:28); even though He is the Son of God!

OBSERVATION

What are the different responses of the people to Jesus (vv. 1, 5, 7, 12-13, 20, 30, 31)?

APPLICATION

How will I live according to God’s agenda for my life and ministry today?

PRAYER

Some say You are just a good man. Some say You were kind. Some say You are in the grave. Some say You were just a prophet. Some say You were wise. Some say You were just a man. But I say You are alive! You are God, my God! I know You are the Messiah. You gave Your life for me. And I know You are the only way. Therefore I will shout Your fame⁵⁰ to all the earth. I will lift Your name on high. And the world will know Your greatness and goodness. Jesus, You are my God and I will shout Your fame. Let me do so today. Amen.

PRAY@10:00 AM/PM

That your pre-believing friends will look beneath the surface so as to see Jesus as more than just a good man, but as Lord and Saviour.

⁵⁰ Adapted from the song *Shout Your Fame* by Paul Nevison, Jonas Myrin, Bedingfield Natasha Anne and Gio Galanti

Missions Prayer

FOCUS OF THE MONTH

Home Missions: China and Japan Fellowships

1. PURPOSE:

China is in Singapore. Japan is in Singapore. Globalisation may be viewed negatively by some but in God's economy, there is great potential! Less than 1% of Japan's population is Christian. However, the anecdotal experience is that for most Japanese who have come to know Christ, it occurred outside of Japan. The church is called to be a priestly nation, one that is not confined by geography or culture. We are called to live such good lives that the people around us may see our good deeds and glorify God (1 Pt 2:12). God has brought mainland Chinese, Japanese and many other people groups into our midst, that we may declare the praises of Him among them.

2. PLATFORMS:

The Japan For Jesus (JFJ) Fellowship was launched in February 2013 and is led by our missionary partners Tak and his wife Su. They have a vision to reach the 28,000 Japanese in Singapore for Christ!

Yoke Fong leads a group of nurses from PRC who meet for fellowship, support and Bible study.

Alvin and Esther Chee lead the International Students Fellowship comprising young Chinese adults, students and professionals who are pre-believers, young believers and Christians coming together to study the Word of God, and seeking for guidance and friendship.

3. PRAYER IDEAS

1. Creative ways to pray this week – Pause and pray this week for a Chinese national or Japanese friend, colleague or neighbour.
2. Pray with your CG this coming week for the China and Japan fellowships during CG meeting.
3. Pray with your family this week during family devotion. Open a map and pray over China and Japan.

PRAYER POINTERS:

1. Pray for the leaders of each ministry – for a strong vision and steadfastness in ministry. Pray for wisdom and dependence on the Lord as they love and lead those in their fellowships.
2. Pray for volunteers to serve alongside them and to help with the various outreach programmes. Pray for strong core teams in each fellowship.

“But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light.”

1 PETER 2:9

April 1,
Tuesday
2014

If Anyone Thirsts



10:40

SCRIPTURE

John 7:37-52

The last day of the Feast of Tabernacles was the most significant. "Each day during the seven days of the Feast of Tabernacles, one of the chief priests would lead a procession down through the Kidron Valley to the pool of Siloam. Out of the waters of the pool he would fill a golden pitcher and carry it back to the temple and pour it over the altar to remind the people of the days in the barren wilderness when God gave them water out of a rock. Then the people would shout and wave palm branches, rejoicing and praising God. But on the great day, the last day, there was no such ceremony because this day had been added to the feast. It was on this day that Jesus seized the opportunity to cry aloud, 'If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink.'"¹ Jesus had redefined the meaning of the Feast. Because He is the Rock (1 Co 10:4) from whom we can drink and have our spiritual thirst eternally satisfied! The significance of His statement and the moment could not be missed, even by those who came to arrest Him (v. 46).

OBSERVATION

Note the simple conditions Jesus gave to receive the rivers of living water from Him (vv. 37-38). How did the crowd complicate the simplicity of His invitation (vv. 41-43, 47-49, 52)?

APPLICATION

How will I respond to Jesus' invitation in verses 37 and 38?

PRAYER

O God, You are my God. Earnestly I seek You. My soul thirsts for You, my flesh faints for You as in a dry and weary land where there is no water. So I have looked upon You in the sanctuary, beholding Your power and glory. Because Your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise You. So I will bless You as long as I live; in Your name I will lift up my hands. My soul will be satisfied as with fat and rich food, and my mouth will praise You with joyful lips. For You have been my help, and in the shadow of Your wings I will sing for joy.² Amen.

PRAY@10:00 AM/PM

That your pre-believing friends will acknowledge their spiritual thirst, come to Jesus and drink by simple faith the living water He offers.

¹ Ray Stedman, <http://www.raystedman.org/daily-devotions/john-1to12/for-those-who-thirst>. Copyright © 2007 by Elaine Stedman. Used with permission.

² Adapted from Psalm 63:1-7

April 2,
Wednesday
2014

Neither Do I Condemn You



SCRIPTURE

John 8:1-11

Why did Jesus write on the ground in response to the scribes and Pharisees who brought to Him an adulterous woman caught in the act (v. 4)? Literally translated, verse 5 should read, "You, there! What do you say?"³ They were testing Jesus (v. 6) to see if He would say anything contrary to the Law which Moses received directly from God Himself. If He disagreed with the verdict of stoning (v. 5), He would be liable for condemnation. If He did not, He would have been seen as a heartless rabbi. By writing on the ground, Jesus set the stage for what He was about to say. Some speculate that He was writing a list of sins that the Pharisees had committed.⁴ Others believe that writing with His finger alluded to how the Law was inscribed with the finger of God (Ex 31:18).⁵ Either way, Jesus by His actions first pronounced the accusers guilty of breaking the Law themselves. Here is the sinless Law-giver Himself who should have condemned all. But none of them were. Yet they were convicted of their own sin. No wonder Jesus is full of grace and truth (Jn 1:14)!

OBSERVATION

Notice who among the Pharisees dropped the stones first (v. 9). What does this tell us about how our understanding of sin and ourselves as sinners change with time and maturity?

APPLICATION

What does "Let him who is without sin cast the first stone" (v. 7), yet knowing Jesus' call to "go and sin no more" (v. 11), look like in my life?

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, I am forgiven because You were forsaken. I am accepted because You were condemned. I am alive and well, Your spirit lives within me. Because You died and rose again. Amazing love, how can it be? That You, my King would die for me. Amazing love, I know it's true. Lord, You are the sinless Law-giver who has every right to pronounce me, a sinner, guilty. Thank You for this undeserved grace that frees me from condemnation and also empowers me to go and sin no more. Lord, it is now my joy to honour You. Let me honour You in all I do.⁶ Amen.

PRAY@10:00 AM/PM

For our pre-believing friends to feel the weight of their own sin, and come to Jesus who does not want to condemn but save them (Jn 3:17).

³ Longenecker, John 8:5

⁴ Longenecker, John 8:6-8

⁵ Keener, John 8:6

⁶ Adapted from the song *You Are My King* by Chris Tomlin

April 3,
Thursday
2014

I Am the Light of the World



SCRIPTURE

John 8:12-30

Jesus proclaimed that He was the light of the world, which would have been striking for His audience. For eight nights during the Feast of Tabernacles, two candlesticks in the Temple would brighten the courtyard and light up the city skyline. "Jesus' statement very likely came at the end of the Festival when the great lights were extinguished...Jesus says He is the one, true light which no one can extinguish or diminish."⁷ Moreover, light is a metaphor for God in the Old Testament (Ps 27:1, Isa 60:19, Mic 7:8). His audience could not have missed what He was saying. He has come as God Himself, lighting up their darkness as well as ours. When we try to find our way around our homes during a blackout without a torch, we end up hurting ourselves because we stub our toes or step on our children's toys. But when light comes back on, the way is obvious. In the dark, we don't know how we look until the light shines and exposes our blemishes. Plants cannot live or grow in the dark, much less bear fruit. But with light, life and growth and fruit are not just possible but natural.

OBSERVATION

What is the result of walking in darkness (vv. 21, 24, 27)? See also John 1:5.

APPLICATION

What does it mean for me to walk with Jesus as the Light in my life?

PRAYER

Light of the world, You descended into my darkness. To You, all of my heart is open and all my desires known. Expose what is unclean and unworthy of You that I may turn away from it. Cleanse the thoughts of my heart by Your indwelling Holy Spirit, that I may perfectly love You and worthily magnify Your name. Let the Light of Your truth set me free. Let the light of Your presence guide me, that I may not walk in darkness but have the light of life. Let me see You more clearly, love more dearly and follow You more nearly day by day. Amen.⁸

PRAY@10:00 AM/PM

That God will expose the darkness of the hearts of your pre-believing friends and cause His light to shine in them.

⁷ Don Schwager, <http://www.dailyscripture.net/>. Copyright © 2001 by Don Schwager. Used with permission.
⁸ Adapted from the *Anglican Book Of Common Prayer* and the hymn *Day By Day*



The Truth Will Set You Free



SCRIPTURE

John 8:31-47

In our desire to walk in freedom, we may have received inner healing and experienced deliverance that involve power encounters. Demonic forces in us were taken by their horns and expelled. The Spirit of God returns to His rightful place in us. That is certainly and absolutely necessary for many of us and we thank God for those moments! At the same time, power encounters are only one side of the coin and are incomplete. The other side involves truth encounters. "The truth will deliver you, permit you to be all that you were meant to be. What does it free us from? When we put it into practical terms, it frees us from all our hang-ups that keep us from being all that we were meant to be...Fear is probably the biggest one...Then there is anger or hostility...Then there is guilt. Millions of people suffer inwardly from a terrible sense of failure, of shame about things in their past. Pride is another hang-up...Do you see how practical all these things are? This is what Jesus is talking about."⁹ Jesus, the Truth Himself (Jn 14:6), came to set you free.

OBSERVATION

How did the Jews respond and behave when God's truth had no place in their lives (vv. 37, 41, 44-45)?

APPLICATION

How do I remain in God's Word (v. 31) and allow God's Word to remain in me (v. 37) so that truth sets me free?

PRAYER

Lord, all Your words are true, and every one of your righteous rules endures forever.¹⁰ Let Your Word remain in me and expose the lies I have believed. Set me free from these lies, that I may walk in Your truth. Let me remain in Your Word, that I may truly be Your disciple who does not only listen to it but acts on it and is blessed in all my doing.¹¹ You are the Word who came, full of grace and truth.¹² Send me today to bring truth to those who are deceived, that they may know You as the way, the truth and the life.¹³ Amen.

PRAY@10:00 AM/PM

For God's truth to pierce the darkness of the lies that your pre-believing friends have believed in.

⁹ Ray Stedman, <http://www.raystedman.org/daily-devotions/john-1to12/true-freedom>. Copyright © 2007 by Elaine Stedman. Used with permission.

¹⁰ Psalm 119:160

¹¹ James 1:22

¹² John 1:14

¹³ John 14:6



review, reflect, response

REVIEW — Look back on your past week using the Examen (modified).

a. What was my high point?

b. What was my low point?

c. What gave me life?

d. What drained me?

e. How was the Spirit of God at work?



REFLECT — What is one key thing that God said to me this week in light of what has happened?

RESPONSE

a. What is one thing I need to do in light of what God is saying?

b. Journal your prayer.

April 7,
Monday
2014

I Am the Good Shepherd



SCRIPTURE

John 10:1-18

When Jesus referred to Himself as the Good Shepherd (v. 11), His audience had unfortunately missed the significance of the metaphor earlier (v. 6) – something that is especially important when we remember how it is used to describe God Himself and how we are to relate to Him (Ps 23:1). “What can shepherding teach us about God and our relationship with him? At the end of each day the shepherd brought his sheep in to shelter. They knew the voice of their shepherd and came at his beckoning. So familiar was the shepherd and his sheep that each was called by a distinct name. In the winter the sheep were usually brought to a communal village shelter which was locked and kept secure by a guardian. In the summer months the sheep were usually kept out in the fields and then gathered into a fold at night which was guarded by a shepherd throughout the night. He was literally the door through which the sheep had to pass....Just as a shepherd kept watch over his sheep and protected them from danger, so Jesus stands watch over His people as the Shepherd and Guardian of our souls (1 Pe 2:25).”¹⁷

OBSERVATION

Compare and contrast what the shepherd and others (the hired hand, strangers and thieves) do (vv. 3-13). What does this tell us about the nature and character of God as our Shepherd?

APPLICATION

How will I listen and follow my Shepherd's voice today?

PRAYER

Good Shepherd, You laid down Your life for Your own. Through this sacrifice Your body and blood were changed into our spiritual food to nourish us whom You have redeemed. You have called me by my name and shown me the way I am to follow despite my own insecurities and uncertainties. Lord, I cannot see ahead. But You can. Let me therefore lay down my life and every worldly pride, possession, pleasure and purpose for the sake of Your name and those whom You desire to bring into Your fold.¹⁸ In Your name I ask, Amen.

PRAY@10:00 AM/PM

For your pre-believing friends to see Jesus as the Good Shepherd who came to lay down His life and lead them to the pastures of eternal life.

¹⁷ Don Schwager, <http://www.dailyscripture.net/>. Copyright © 2001 by Don Schwager. Used with permission.
¹⁸ Adapted from St Augustine's commentary of John 10

April 8,
Tuesday
2014

No One Will Snatch Them



10:40

SCRIPTURE

John 10:22-42

The Jewish Feast of the Dedication, also known as the Festival of Lights or Hanukkah, was celebrated during winter (v. 22) when the day is shortest and the night longest. During this time, besides reconsecrating and lighting up the Temple, Jewish pilgrims would also recite Psalm 30¹⁹ which commemorated the dedication of the previous Temple. In this Psalm, King David praised God for delivering Him from His enemies. This was the exact experience of Jesus here. In declaring that He was the Light of the world during this Festival of Lights and insisting that He was the Son of God, His enemies wanted to stone Him for blasphemy (vv. 31-33). Failing which, they sought to arrest Him (v. 39). But He escaped from their hands, not because He was wise in His rebuttal, though He certainly was, but rather His time had not yet come; His hour would come when the Father said so (Jn 13:1). On this side of eternity, we will experience sadness, sickness and death. Those nights of trouble can be long, just like it was during the time of this winter Feast. But through these, the Lord will lead us to ultimate victory and safety. Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes in the morning (Ps 30:5).

OBSERVATION

What promise did Jesus give to those who are His (vv. 27-29)?

See also verse 39. Elaborate on it in your own words.

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APPLICATION

How will I stand strong as God's sheep during those dark nights of the soul²⁰?

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PRAYER

I will extol You, O Lord, for You have drawn me up from the pit and have not let my foes rejoice over me. I cried to You for help and You have healed me. I will sing praise and give thanks to Your name. For Your anger lasts a moment, but Your favour is for a lifetime. By Your favour, O Lord, You made my mountain stand strong. To You I cry and plead for mercy. Hear O Lord! Be merciful to me and be my helper! You have turned my mourning into dancing, my sackcloth into garments of gladness, that I may sing Your praise and not be silent. O Lord my God, I will give thanks to You forever!²¹ Amen.

PRAY@10:00 AM/PM

For your pre-believing friends to call upon God during their times of trouble and that they may know their times are in His hands.

¹⁹ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Feast_of_dedication#Feast_of_Dedication

²⁰ A term coined by St John Of The Cross

²¹ Adapted from Psalm 30



He Stayed Two More Days



SCRIPTURE

John 11:1-16

Lazarus was a man whom Jesus loved (v. 3). Jesus had visited the house where he and his sisters stayed in Bethany (Lk 10:38). When Jesus heard that this dear friend of His was sick, He stayed where He was across the Jordan (v. 6) for two more days. What kind of a man was this who would delay in seeing a dying friend? Did He or did He not love this friend, whom He might not see again? It would have puzzled His disciples why Jesus did not go immediately. It would have also confused them equally why He was even willing to go two days later, when the Jews were waiting to stone him (v. 8). His life was on the line and so were theirs (v. 16). But Jesus lived and saw life and ministry through a different lens. He saw beyond Lazarus' present condition and towards His future cross, where the Son of God would be glorified (v. 4). The raising of Lazarus from the dead was meant not just to be a miracle but a signpost pointing to the death and resurrection of Jesus, who Himself was in the tomb for two days.

OBSERVATION

How did Jesus view death and what is our appropriate response to it in light of eternity (vv. 12-13)? See also 1 Corinthians 15:20 and 1 Thessalonians 4:13-15.

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APPLICATION

How should I therefore see and live my life here in light of my own death?

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PRAYER

More love to You, O Christ, more love to You! Hear this prayer I make on bended knee. This is my earnest plea: More love to You, O Christ, more love to You. Once earthly joy I craved, sought peace and rest. Now You alone I seek and give to You what is my best. Thus my prayer shall be: More love to You O Christ, more love to You. Let sorrow do its work, come grief and pain. Then shall my latest breath whisper Your praise. This be the parting cry my heart shall raise, this still its prayer shall be: More love to You, O Christ, more love to You.²²

PRAY@10:00 AM/PM

For your pre-believing friends to see beyond this life and a hope beyond the grave because of the death and resurrection of Jesus.

22 Adapted from the hymn *More Love To Thee, O Christ* by Elizabeth P Prentiss

April 10,
Thursday
2014

I Am the Resurrection and the Life



SCRIPTURE

John 11:17-37

“Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” (vv. 21, 32). This was the sad refrain of the two grieving sisters. If only Jesus could have arrived in time. But it was too late. And it was all over. Or so they thought. “If Martha had any idea that that (her brother’s resurrection) would happen then, she would have said, ‘How wonderful, Lord! That is exactly what I expected you to do now that you have come.’ But she does not say that. What she says is, ‘Yes, I know. He will rise again in the resurrection at the last day (v. 24).’ No, Martha was not looking for the immediate resurrection of her brother...How many times have you said to yourself, ‘I know God has worked in the past, and I know that He will work again in the future, but today, well, this is not the day of miracles.’ In the daily grind of life, our world seems to be so barren of miracles that we think those days have gone. God can’t work now. He will work again, though... This is Martha’s faith - in the future, at the resurrection of the last day. Her theology is accurate but she has forgotten that God is right there in the here and now.”²³

OBSERVATION

Note the words that describe Jesus’ emotions at that point in time (vv. 33, 35, 38). What does this tell us about God in the midst of our suffering?

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APPLICATION

How do I respond to God in the midst of suffering?

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PRAYER

Risen Lord, be our resurrection and life. Be the resurrection and the life in us who know the good but fail to do it, who know love but still live for self, who know hope but succumb to despair. Be the resurrection and the life for those in the grip of sin and addiction, the loneliness of abandonment and the throes of sickness and death. Be the resurrection and the life in families where the weak are maltreated by the strong, and in marriages that are disintegrating. Be the resurrection and the life in the fellowship we enjoy, that filled anew with the wonder of Your love and the power of Your grace, we may go forth to proclaim to the world the resurrection life that was assured by the first Easter morn. Amen.²⁴

PRAY@10:00 AM/PM

That your pre-believing friends will look to Jesus for the resurrection life that only He can give.

²³ Ray Stedman, <http://www.raystedman.org/daily-devotions/john-1to12/the-god-of-the-here-and-now>. Copyright © 2007 by Elaine Stedman. Used with permission.

²⁴ Adapted from <http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2011/aprilweb-only/resurrectionprayer.html>. Copyright © 2011 Christianity Today.

April 12,
Saturday
2014

Leave Her Alone



SCRIPTURE

John 11:55-12:11

"Mary took a pound of costly ointment and poured it on Jesus...This account makes clear that she understood the work of Jesus and the change He had made in her heart. She was also deeply appreciative not only of the restoration of her brother Lazarus, but in the magnificent teaching she heard from Him as she sat at His feet. This is what accounts for her extravagance here. She spared no expense; she cared nothing for the customs of the day, entering into a supper where women were usually not welcome, letting down her hair in public - an unthinkable act in that culture - and openly expressing her love for Jesus. But that's how love and worship act. They are uncaring of expense."²⁷ What Mary did here was not a single act of devotion, contrary to how we often see it. When Jesus came to her home previously, the one thing she desired was to sit at His feet the whole time (Lk 10:39). Here she was, back at His feet again. Extravagant worship doesn't just happen. We need to condition ourselves regularly in order to worship God extravagantly!

OBSERVATION

What prevented Judas from enjoying the fragrance in the room or affirming what Mary had done (vv. 4-6)?

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APPLICATION

To what extent am I prepared to worship God? What expense am I prepared to make?

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PRAYER

Lord Jesus, You are God's precious treasure. And though You are perfect and holy, You gave up Yourself willingly. You spared no expense for my pardon, used up and wasted for me. You were broken and spilled out, just for love of me Jesus. In sweet abandon, Lord, You were spilled out and used up for Me. Let me now be broken and spilled out just for love of you, Jesus. You are my most precious treasure and I lavish myself on You. Let me be broken and spilled out and poured at Your feet. In sweet abandon, let me be spilled out and used up for You.²⁸ Amen.

PRAY@10:00 AM/PM

For your pre-believing friends to see how much Jesus was broken and spilled out for their sins, so that they may respond in glad abandonment to Him.

²⁷ Ray Stedman, <http://www.raystedman.org/daily-devotions/john-1to12/extravagant-worship>. Copyright © 2007 by Elaine Stedman. Used with permission.

²⁸ Adapted from the song *Broken And Spilled Out* by Bill George



review, reflect, response

REVIEW — Look back on your past week using the Examen (modified).

a. What was my high point?

b. What was my low point?

c. What gave me life?

d. What drained me?

e. How was the Spirit of God at work?



REFLECT — What is one key thing that God said to me this week in light of what has happened?

RESPONSE

a. What is one thing I need to do in light of what God is saying?

b. Journal your prayer.

April 14,
Monday
2014

Unless a Grain of Wheat Falls



10:40

SCRIPTURE

John 12:11-36

Jesus' 30-over years of life and ministry culminated in this final week in Jerusalem. This was the hour He was born for. The anticipation of the crowd for Him to overthrow and take over the Roman government reached its climax as He entered the capital. Now, even the Greeks requested to see Him (v. 21). His popularity had reached an all-time high. Yet His priority was not to accede to their requests, even though it would have increased His popularity even further. In fact, His soul was troubled (v. 27)! Why? It came down to what He saw. The crowd saw a throne that He would sit on as they hailed Him as the King (v. 13). Jesus saw the cross that He would hang on as they nailed Him as the King (v. 32). The crowds saw a King who was not supposed to die, if not their hope for deliverance would come to nothing. Jesus saw a King who had to die (v. 24), if not the fruit of His life and ministry would come to nothing. The way that God the Father had chosen for Him to draw people to Himself was not through the golden throne but the blood-stained cross (v. 32).

OBSERVATION

What paradoxes did Jesus see which define discipleship (vv. 24-28, 31-33)?

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APPLICATION

How will I live out these paradoxes as I remember what Jesus did for me?

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PRAYER

I am no longer my own but Yours. Put me to what You will, rank me with whom You will. Put me to doing, put me to suffering. Let me be employed for You or laid aside for You, exalted for You or brought low for You. Let me be full, let me be empty. Let me have all things, let me have nothing. I freely and heartily yield all things to Your pleasure and disposal. And now, O glorious and blessed God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, You are mine, and I am Yours. And the covenant which I have made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.²⁹

PRAY@10:00 AM/PM

For God to draw your pre-believing friends to Himself through the finished work of Jesus who was lifted up (v. 32).

²⁹ The Wesleyan Covenant prayer. Modernised from The Book Of Offices of The Methodist Church In Britain, 1936

April 15,
Tuesday
2014

Who Has Believed



10:40

SCRIPTURE

John 12:36-43

Many people think that miracles help them believe in God. In fact, I came across a taxi driver who said to me, "If I strike lottery, I will believe in God." Another commonly heard statement is, "If God heals my loved one who is sick, I will believe in Him." Jesus did not only do one but seven miracles in the gospel of John - turning water into wine (Jn 2:1-11), healing the official's son (Jn 4:46-54), healing the lame man at the pool (Jn 5:1-18), feeding the 5,000 (Jn 6:5-14), walking on water (Jn 6:16-24), healing the blind man (Jn 9:1-7) and raising Lazarus from the dead (Jn 11:1-45). Yet the people still did not believe in Him (v. 37). How could it be? The problem lies not with God but with ourselves. Notice how Jesus ended His previous conversation with His disciples before He hid Himself (vv. 35-36). He called His disciples to walk in the light as an expression of their discipleship. Because there were those who chose to walk in darkness instead. And those who walked in darkness could not understand the Light who had come and lay hold of Him (Jn 1:5) - even if He did seven miracles.

OBSERVATION

What happens to our spiritual condition if we reject the Light that Isaiah prophesied would come (vv. 38-40)?

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APPLICATION

How will I turn from darkness and walk in the Light today?

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PRAYER

Light of the world, You came despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. Surely You bore my griefs and carried my sorrows. You were wounded for my transgressions and crushed for my iniquities. Upon You was the punishment that brought me peace, and by Your stripes I am healed. I, like a sheep, have gone astray and turned to my own way, but God laid on You all my sins.³⁰ O Lamb of God! Let me love You more than the glory that comes from man. For You have done the greatest miracle of transferring me from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of light.³¹ Amen.

PRAY@10:00 AM/PM

For your pre-believing friends to be convicted of the darkness they are living in and come to the Light.

³⁰ Isaiah 53:1-6
³¹ Colossians 1:13

April 16,
Wednesday
2014

Cried Out



SCRIPTURE

John 12:44-50

This was the third and last time Jesus cried out in public in a loud voice (v. 44). The first was when He gave an invitation to those who were spiritually thirsty to come to Him and drink (Jn 7:37). The second was when Jesus called the dead Lazarus out of the tomb (Jn 11:43). The decibels must have made heads turn. Because every time He cried out, there was something life-changing and life-giving He wanted to offer. Jesus offered living water to all when He first cried out. He then offered physical life back to Lazarus. This time would be no exception and would be even more crucial. Since it was the last time the crowd would hear His teaching before He focused all His remaining time on His disciples. What would Jesus give this time? Himself. ("Whoever believes in me..." v. 44). This was not a different message but the same one He gave when He first cried out (Jn 7:37). Because He had been sent by the Father (vv. 44, 45, 49) and is the exact representation of His being (Heb 1:3), this is what the crowd *must catch*, if they catch nothing else after all those times Jesus had been with them.

OBSERVATION

What are the repeated words in this passage? Using them, summarise into one sentence Jesus' last message to the crowd.

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APPLICATION

What is the message I must bring to my pre-believing friends, if they do not hear anything else from me?

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PRAYER

Lord Jesus, You kept crying out to the world in need. Because the greatest thing we needed could not be found in the world. When You come again, You will cry out once more to bring those who are Yours to be with You forever.³² I cry out to You now, O Lord. Grant that I may live this life being Your voice to others, so that they may hear the call of God for them to be saved. Grant that those who cry out to You in faith may receive the salvation that is theirs when they believe in You, so that they, too, may look forward to the day when You will cry out again. Amen.

PRAY@10:00 AM/PM

For your pre-believing friends to hear God calling them and that they may cry out to Him in faith and be saved.

April 17,
Thursday
2014

Glorify the Son and Father



SCRIPTURE

John 17:1-26

This was the prayer Jesus prayed to the Father on the final night before He was betrayed and arrested. This prayer has been regarded as the holy of holies of Scripture, and volumes have been written about this one chapter alone.³³ It showed the purpose, priority and pattern of Jesus' prayer life at the most crucial juncture of His life and ministry, when He would later undergo such extreme emotional stress and agony that He would sweat blood³⁴ (Lk 22:44). What did Jesus pray at such a time as this? Notice Jesus began by praying for Himself (vv. 1-5). Which may be surprising for us, considering that this prayer is known to be intercessory in nature.³⁵ But the difference between Jesus praying for Himself and us praying for ourselves is this: Jesus did not pray for His own needs to be met but for God to be glorified through Him (v. 1), because the hour had come (v. 1) and He had finished what God wanted Him to do (v. 4). Up to the point when He knew He would be betrayed, arrested, tortured and crucified in just a few moments, His priority was still the glory of God. That is prayer at its best!

OBSERVATION

What did Jesus pray about for His disciples (vv. 6-26, see especially vv. 9-11, 15, 17, 20-21)?

APPLICATION

How does this prayer pattern of Jesus change the way I pray for myself and others?

PRAYER

If only I possessed the grace, good Jesus, to be utterly at one with you!
Amidst all the variety of worldly things around me, the only thing I crave is unity with you. You are all my soul needs. Unite, dear Lover of my heart, this little soul of mine to Your perfect goodness. Lord Jesus, my beloved, be the magnet of my heart; draw and unite me forever to your sacred heart.

You have made me for Yourself; make me one with You. And through me when I am one with You, may You be glorified and the world may know You are sent. Amen.³⁶

PRAY@10:00 AM/PM

For your pre-believing friends to believe and know that God the Father sent Jesus and loved them even as the Father loved Jesus (vv. 21, 23).

³³ Ray Stedman, <http://www.raystedman.org/daily-devotions/john-13to17/a-prayer-for-glory>. Copyright © 2007 by Elaine Stedman. Used with permission.

³⁴ A medical condition called hematuria. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hematuria>

³⁵ Jamieson, R., Fausset, A. R. and Brown, D., John 17

³⁶ Adapted from a prayer by St Francis of Sales, 1567-1622. www.dailyscripture.net

April 18,
Good Friday
2014

That the Scriptures Might Be Fulfilled



10:40

SCRIPTURE

John 19:16-37

The refrain of the Scriptures is that nothing happens by chance or luck, as people would say, but always according to the foreknowledge of God. This is especially so when it comes to the death of Jesus. From a human point of view, it seems that many human factors contributed to it. It was the scheme of the Pharisees which finally paid off after many tries to bring Him down (Jn 19:6). It was the crowd who dramatically turned against Him (Jn 19:7), after giving Him a red-carpet welcome into Jerusalem (Jn 12:13). It was Pilate, an insecure leader who did not have the courage to release Him, knowing full well that there was no guilt in Him (Jn 19:4, 6), but instead fulfilled the wishes of the crowd for fear of losing favour with the people and Caesar (Jn 19:12, 15). But from a divine point of view, this was not so! Jesus, when facing His earthly ruler who had absolute power to crucify or release Him, said to him, "You have no authority over Me...unless it had been given you from above" (Jn 19:11). But Jesus was crucified so that in God's time and way, the Scriptures might be fulfilled (vv. 24, 36, 37).

OBSERVATION

How is what happened to Jesus on Good Friday a fulfilment of Psalm 22:1-18³⁷?

APPLICATION

How do I see what is happening in my life from God's point of view?

PRAYER

Almighty God, You love Your church for which our Lord Jesus Christ was contented to be betrayed, given up into the hands of wicked men and suffer death upon the cross. Receive our prayers which we offer that we Your church, in our vocation and ministry, may truly serve You and glorify You through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. O Merciful God, who has made all men and wants not the death of a sinner but rather that he should be converted and live, have mercy upon all unbelievers and take from them all ignorance, hardness of heart and contempt of Your Word. Fetch them home, blessed Lord, to Your flock, that they may be saved among the remnant of the true Israelites, and be made one fold under one shepherd, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end, Amen.³⁸

PRAY@10:00 AM/PM

For your pre-believing friends to see and recognise that God has total authority over their lives (Jn 19:11).

³⁷ Psalm 22:18 is quoted in John 19:24.

³⁸ Adapted from *The Book of Common Prayer*, 1662

April 19,
Holy Saturday
2014

Refining Family



SCRIPTURE

John 19:38-42

Just as the birth of Jesus was a quiet affair (Lk 2:7), so too was the burial of Jesus. There was no grand procession with deafening music or a mourning party that followed the hearse. None of Jesus' earthly family was at the grave, as was normally required by Jewish customs³⁹, because mourning was not allowed for those executed under Roman law.⁴⁰ Among those at the grave was Joseph of Arimathea, a disciple of Jesus (Jn 19:38) who did not consent to the decisions and actions of the Jewish council and was looking for the kingdom of God (Lk 23:51). There was also Nicodemus, a man whom Jesus impacted with His teaching about the kingdom of God and how to enter it (Jn 3:1-21). Two women who followed Jesus in His life and ministry were also there (Mt 27:61). One was Mary Magdalene who was delivered from seven evil spirits by Jesus (Lk 8:2). The other Mary was most likely the mother of James, one of Jesus' disciples (Mt 27:56). The birth of Jesus was witnessed by His physical family. The burial of Jesus was witnessed by His spiritual family.

OBSERVATION

What did Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus risk in order to bury Jesus (vv. 38, 40)? See also Numbers 19:11-12.

APPLICATION

What am I prepared to risk in order to be a disciple of the no-longer-dead-but-risen Lord?

PRAYER

Merciful and ever-living God, Creator of heaven and earth, the crucified body of Your Son was laid in the tomb and rested on this holy day. Grant that we may await with Him the dawning of the third day and rise in newness of life through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. O God of unchangeable power, look favourably on your Church and carry out the plan of salvation by the effectual working of Your power. Let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which have grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by Him through whom all things were made, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.⁴¹

PRAY@10:00 AM/PM

For your pre-believing friends to be adopted into God's spiritual family that they may call Him "Abba Father" (Ro 8:15).

³⁹ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bereavement_in_Judaism#Burial

⁴⁰ Carson, D.A., *Matthew*. Minneapolis: Liturgical Press, 1984. Vol. 8 of *The Expositor's Bible Commentary*, Matt 27:61, Ed. Frank E. Gæbelein. 12 vols. 1976-92

⁴¹ Adapted from *The Book of Common Prayer*, 1979

April 20,
Sunday
2014

review, reflect, response

REVIEW — Look back on your past week using the Examen (modified).

a. What was my high point?

b. What was my low point?

c. What gave me life?

d. What drained me?

e. How was the Spirit of God at work?

REFLECT — What is one key thing that God said to me this week in light of what has happened?

RESPONSE

a. What is one thing I need to do in light of what God is saying?

b. Journal your prayer.

April 21,
Monday
2014

How Have I Been Maturing?

SCRIPTURE

1 John 2:12-14; 2 Peter 1:3-11

The threefold grouping - children, young men and fathers - refers to stages in spiritual development, not physical ages.⁴² John identifies four spiritual experiences and qualities: forgiveness of sins (v. 12), fellowship with God ("you know Him", vv. 13, 14), fighting the enemy ("have overcome the evil one", vv. 13, 14) and faithfulness to the truth ("the word of God abides in you," v. 14). While each group bears its distinctive spiritual experiences and qualities, theologically, all four are necessary at every stage of spiritual growth. But we ought to be growing in greater depth, health and strength; attaining greater sensitivity to our sins and being quicker in confessing them to God for forgiveness (cf. Ps 66:18); walking closer with God; stronger in fleeing, resisting, and overcoming temptations; and growing deeper in knowledge, understanding and conviction of God's Word and living by it.

OBSERVATION

What characterises maturing in Christ according to 2 Peter 1:3-11?

APPLICATION

What area(s) of my life have I grown in over the past one year?
What area(s) do I need to grow in?

PRAYER

Holy Spirit, bring to my awareness immediately when I sin against God, and to confess it to Him without delay for His gracious forgiveness. Empower me that I may be strong in the Lord to discern and flee or resist temptations in victory. Teach me and guide me, Spirit of truth, to grasp God's Word and to live by it, so that I may grow to know God more and more. Amen.

Prayer Pointers

- Give thanks:

- Pray for leaders:

- Pray for significant people:

- Pray for those in need:

- Pray for self:

⁴² John R. W. Stott, *The Letters of John*, Tyndale New Testament Commentaries (IVP, 1964, 1968), 101

April 22,
Tuesday
2014

Trinity of Evil

SCRIPTURE

1 John 2:15-17; James 4:4

"Do not set your hearts on this godless world" (v. 15, NEB). Worldliness "does not lie in the things we do or in places we frequent; it lies in the human heart, in the set of human affections and attitudes"⁴³ – the "reactions going on inside us, as we contemplate the environment outside."⁴⁴ Lust and pride exist in the heart. Worldliness is characterised by a "trinity of evil" (v. 16).⁴⁵ Gratification ("cravings of sinful man", v. 16) is "the outlook orientated towards self", pursuing "its own ends".⁴⁶ It "connotes all that is materialistic, egocentric, exploitative, selfish"⁴⁷ and sensual. Greed ("lust of the eyes", v. 16) is "the tendency to be captivated by the outward show of things, without enquiring into their real values"⁴⁸. Glory ("pride of life", v. 16) is seeking "to impress everyone one meets with his own non-existent importance"⁴⁹. Gratification and greed are "holy desire[s] for things one has not",⁵⁰ and glory is "unholy pride in things one has".⁵¹

OBSERVATION

What does James 4:4 say about worldliness?

APPLICATION

What area(s) in my life do I need to deal with concerning worldliness?

PRAYER

O God of love, true light and radiance of the world, shine into my heart like the rising sun and banish the darkness of sin and the mists of error. Help me this day and all my life to walk without stumbling along the way which You have set before me, through Jesus Christ my Lord.⁵² Amen.

Prayer Pointers

- Give thanks:
- Pray for leaders:
- Pray for significant people:
- Pray for those in need:
- Pray for self:

⁴³ F. F. Bruce, *The Epistles of John* (Pickering Paperbacks, 1970, 1978), 61

⁴⁴ David Jackman, *The Message of John's Letters*, *The Bible Speaks Today* (IVP, 1988), 61

⁴⁵ John Stott, 105 – citing George G. Findlay and Alfred Plummer

⁴⁶ Howard I. Marshall, *The Epistles of John*, *The New International Commentary on the New Testament* (Eerdmans, 1978), 145 – citing A. C. Thiselton

⁴⁷ Glenn W. Barker, 1, 2, 3 *John*, *The Expositor's Bible Commentary* (Zondervan, 1981), Vol. 12, 321

⁴⁸ John Stott, 105 – citing C. H. Dodd

⁴⁹ John Stott, 105 – citing Robert Law

⁵⁰ John Stott, 105 – citing George G. Findlay

⁵¹ John Stott, 105 – citing George G. Findlay

⁵² Adapted from Erasmus (1466-1536), Angela Ashwin, *The Book of A Thousand Prayers* (Zondervan, 1996, 2002), 275

April 23,
Wednesday
2014

Living in the Last Hour

SCRIPTURE

1 John 2:18-19; 2 Timothy 3:1-13

The "last hour" (v. 18) is "the terminal phase of the 'last days'"⁵³ which began at Christ's first coming. It will be marked by the coming of an "antichrist" just before Christ's second coming (v. 18; cf. 2Th 2:1-12; Rev 13). In the last days, "many antichrists have appeared" (v. 18), and "the whole period is marked by hostility from the world"⁵⁴ in the form of covert deception and overt persecution. We need discernment from God ("you heard", "we know," v. 18) to counter deception. We need to be "skilled in reading the signs of the times" (1 Ch 12:32, REB) and "understand what the will of the Lord is" in the evil days (Eph 5:17). Discernment is developed by being grounded in God's Word. Keep our devotion to God ("remained with us" in fellowship, v. 19), anticipating persecution. Remaining in fellowship presupposes God's Word remaining in us, and us remaining "in the Son and in the Father" (1 Jn 2:24). When we live rightly in the last days, we will be ready to live in the last hour.

OBSERVATION

What characterises the difficult times in the last days according to 2 Timothy 3:1-13?

APPLICATION

How can I prepare myself to meet the difficult times in the last days?

PRAYER

Sovereign God, who reigns over history and humankind, over the last days of difficult times. You are my light; help me to discern the signs of the times and direct my path. You are my strength; empower me to remain steadfast in my devotion to You when the pressure to compromise is great. You are my salvation; deliver me from all forms of evil. Amen.

Prayer Pointers

- Give thanks:
- Pray for leaders:
- Pray for significant people:
- Pray for those in need:
- Pray for self:

⁵³ F. F. Bruce, 64

⁵⁴ David Jackman, 68

April 24,
Thursday
2014

Doctrinal Warfare

SCRIPTURE

1 John 2:20-26; Colossians 2:4-8

A very important form of spiritual warfare is doctrinal warfare against “those who are trying to deceive you” (v. 26). This comprises three areas – possibility of deception, intentionality of deception and victory against deception. Possibility of deception: It is possible for Christians to be deceived. The source of deception can be external – the heretics which John warns against (“make sure no one deceives you”, 1 Jn 3:7). It can also be internal – the heart (“we are deceiving ourselves”, 1 Jn 1:8). Intentionality of deception: False teachers are “trying”, making deliberate attempts “to deceive” God’s people (v. 26). There is no escape; we must be alert. John “does not underestimate the strength or the subtlety of the deceivers”.⁵⁵ The nature and power of deception is that when we are deceived, we are unaware. John seems to link “the evil one” (1 Jn 2:14), the “world” (1 Jn 2:15-17) and “antichrist(s)” (1 Jn 2:18-19, 22-23) in close context. Victory against deception: Only knowing what is true enables us to discern and detect what is untrue. This can happen only when God’s Word “remains in you” and we “remain” in God (v. 24). It’s back to battle basics.

OBSERVATION

How can we counter false teachings (deception) according to Colossians 2:4-8?

APPLICATION

How seriously should I take false teachings (deception)?

PRAYER

Lord, Your Word has warned that a time will come when people will no longer listen to sound teaching, but will follow their own desires and look for teachers to tell them whatever their itchy ears want to hear, and reject the truth and chase after illusions.⁵⁶ Strengthen my foundation in Your Word and keep me from becoming one of them. Amen.

Prayer Pointers

- Give thanks:
- Pray for leaders:
- Pray for significant people:
- Pray for those in need:
- Pray for self:

⁵⁵ John Stott, 118

⁵⁶ 2 Timothy 4:3-4 (NLT)

April 25,
Friday
2014

Detecting Heretics

SCRIPTURE

2 Peter 3:14-18

"Be on guard" against heresies (2 Pe 3:17). Generally, heretics have two common characteristics. They invite you to join their community for Bible study and when you tell them you are already a Christian, instead of rejoicing with you, they still persist in their invitation. Heretics err in three cardinal doctrines, namely, Bible, God and Salvation. Bible: They claim that your Bible is not true, or that it is incomplete and you need to add something else. God: It could be a denial of the Triune God (the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit), or of Jesus' humanity or divinity. Salvation: They claim that salvation is not by grace through faith alone but other things are also required. Try not to argue with them. The issue is more spiritual than just ideological (1 Co 2:14). One practical thing you can do is to get them into an agreement: "I'll give you 15 minutes to talk and I'll just listen; then you give me 15 minutes to talk and you listen." When it is your turn, share the gospel with them. At least, they get a chance to hear the truth.⁵⁷

OBSERVATION

What must we do to guard against false teachings (deception) according to 2 Peter 3:14-18?

APPLICATION

What is one essential area I need to pay attention to so as to guard against false teachings (deception)?

PRAYER

Lord, help me to recognise the critical need to be instructed and informed of the truth revealed in Your Word, lest ignorance plagues my mind and heart. I want to grow in Your grace and in knowing You, so that I can guard myself from being carried away by the errors of wicked people and lose my secure footing in You. Amen.

Prayer Pointers

- Give thanks:
- Pray for leaders:
- Pray for significant people:
- Pray for those in need:
- Pray for self:

⁵⁷ I know of someone who has done this.



review, reflect, response

REVIEW — Look back on your past week using the Examen (modified).

a. What was my high point?

b. What was my low point?

c. What gave me life?

d. What drained me?

e. How was the Spirit of God at work?



REFLECT — What is one key thing that God said to me this week in light of what has happened?

RESPONSE

a. What is one thing I need to do in light of what God is saying?

b. Journal your prayer.

April 28,
Monday
2014

Take Personal Responsibility

SCRIPTURE

1 John 2:20-21; Psalm 119:33-40

One of the false beliefs of the heretics John writes about in 1 John is their exclusive elitist claim of being “an esoteric, enlightened minority”.⁶² The church in general, consciously or unconsciously, tends to hold to such a belief, viewing pastors as “an esoteric, enlightened minority”. The result is that many Christians leave the study of God’s Word mainly to the pastors, and on Sunday, they will just take in what the pastors preach or teach. John says of his readers, “All of you know the truth” (v. 20, NIV) - “the point is that true knowledge is not confined to a favoured elite but is accessible to them all”.⁶³ John’s readers “know the truth” (v. 21), having “a built-in spiritual instinct which enables them to detect and refuse whatever is basically incompatible with that truth, no matter how speciously and eloquently it may be set before them”.⁶⁴ This ought to be true of every believer today. It starts with taking personal responsibility to “know the truth” by studying the Scriptures.

OBSERVATION

What does the psalmist say about feeding on God’s Word personally in Psalm 119:33-40?

APPLICATION

In what ways do I want to be like the psalmist in personally feeding on God’s Word?

PRAYER

Pray using
Psalm 119:33-40
as a guide.

Prayer Pointers

- Give thanks:

- Pray for leaders:

- Pray for significant people:

- Pray for those in need:

- Pray for self:

⁶² John Stott, 112

⁶³ F. F. Bruce, 72

⁶⁴ F. F. Bruce, 72

April 30,
Wednesday
2014

Scripture and Spirit

SCRIPTURE

1 John 2:24, 27; 1 Corinthians 2:9-13

Biblically, Holy Scripture and the Holy Spirit go hand in hand. John teaches his readers that God's Word and the Spirit must "remain in you" (vv. 24, 27). Scripture and the Spirit are "the two safeguards against error".⁶⁵ "The Word is an objective safeguard, while the anointing of the Spirit is a subjective experience; both the apostolic teaching and the heavenly teacher are necessary for continuance in the truth. And both are to be personally and inwardly grasped. This is the biblical balance which is too seldom preserved. Some honour the Word and neglect the Spirit who alone can interpret it; others honour the Spirit but neglect the Word through which He teaches. The only safeguard against lies is to have remaining within us"⁶⁶ both Scripture and the Spirit. Faithfully dig into the Scripture and prayerfully depend on the Spirit, "Give me understanding that I may keep Your Law" (Ps 119:34).

OBSERVATION

Why do we need the Holy Spirit to understand God's truths (1 Co 2:9-13)?

APPLICATION

What should I do to understand God's truths through the Holy Spirit?

PRAYER

God, You desire to speak and reveal Yourself to us that we may know You. I thank You that to make this possible, You have given us the two very precious gifts of the Holy Scriptures and the Holy Spirit. Each time I open the Scriptures, may Your Spirit open my eyes to see, my ears to hear, my mind to understand and my heart to know and love You. Amen.

Prayer Pointers

- Give thanks:
- Pray for leaders:
- Pray for significant people:
- Pray for those in need:
- Pray for self:

⁶⁵ John Stott, 119
⁶⁶ John Stott, 119

Missions Prayer

FOCUS OF THE MONTH

EAST ASIA MINORITIES

1. PURPOSE:

Population of China: 1.35 billion, 92% Han Chinese and 55 ethnic minorities that are further split into over 400 dialect groups.

China's Religion: Non-Religious 49.58%, Buddhist 8.38%, Christians 7.25%, Traditional ethnic 4.29% and Muslim 2%.

CEFC missionaries are engaged in reaching out to the minorities and planting Disciple-making Church Plants (DCP). The ultimate goal of the DCPs is to disciple the minorities so that they can multiply and lead the DCPs. The 55 ethnic minority groups are a largely neglected people, left behind in education and economic development.

2. PERSPECTIVES:

Our missionaries face many obstacles in the field. All have their families with them. Falling sick is common. Exhaustion sets in from having to look after family, business/vocation and ministry.

They travel frequently to meet local leaders for mentoring and ministry. Often the trip is on bumpy roads in mountainous areas.

Many of the disciples are young and spiritually frail. Sometimes relationship issues get in the way and frustrate the primary work of reaching out and building disciples. There is always the danger of discouragement, exhaustion and losing perspective.

PRAYER POINTERS:

1. It is a challenge juggling business/vocation, ministry and family in the field. Pray for their emotional, physical and spiritual well-being.
2. Because of the sensitive nature of their work, pray for God's constant protection and shelter.
3. Pray for an ability to recognise open door opportunities and to be led by the Holy Spirit.
4. Pray that God will raise bold and courageous disciples who will be faithful witnesses for Christ.

"I urge you, brothers and sisters, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to join me in my struggle by praying to God for me."

ROMANS 15:30, NIV

worship songs

SHOW US THE ANCIENT PATHS

Verse 1

Lord we confess that
 We have wandered
 Far from Your purpose and plan
 And willingly walked
 In the wrong direction
 We've disobeyed Your commands

Father forgive us
 Spirit come lead us
 Back to the way
 Back to the truth
 Back to the foot of the cross

Chorus

Show us the ancient paths
 Lead us along eternal highways
 We want to walk
 In the ways of Jesus
 We want to enter Your rest

Show us the ancient paths
 Lead us along eternal highways
 We want to follow
 The footsteps of Jesus
 We want to enter Your rest

Verse 2

Lord it's Your mercy and good intention
 That constantly calls us to You
 Your infinite patience
 And kind correction
 Your covenant love coming through

You are our hope
 And our salvation
 You promise joy
 You give us grace
 And courage to carry the cross

Verse 3

We want to leave
 A clear set of footprints
 For those who will follow behind
 Signposts in our lives
 That point to Jesus
 A pathway they'll easily find
 We want to fill up
 The sufferings of Jesus
 As we obey
 Our lives display
 The glorious way of the cross

We want to follow
 The footsteps of Jesus
 We want to enter Your rest

Words & Music: Chris Christensen
 Year & Publisher: © 1993 Integrity's Hosanna! Music;
 (Admin. by EMI Christian Music Publishing)
 CCLI License #: 324618

HOPE OF ALL HEARTS

The world may fade, You will remain
 In the midst of the trial
 You will always be the same
 Our God never fails
 Our God never fails

With hope and light, You reign over all
 Though my heart may fail
 You will always be the same
 Our God never fails
 Our God never fails

Praise in the morning
 Praise in the evening
 Praise when I'm laughing
 Praise when I'm grieving
 There will be dancing
 There will be singing
 Upon injustice we will tell of our God

The hope of all hearts
 The hope of all hearts is You
 Your love never fails
 Your love never fails

With hope and light, You reign over all
 Though my heart may fail
 You will always be the same
 Our God never fails
 Our God never fails

Praise in the morning
 Praise in the evening
 Praise when I'm laughing
 Praise when I'm grieving

There will be dancing
 There will be singing
 Upon injustice we will tell of our God

The hope of all hearts
 The hope of all hearts is You
 Your love never fails
 Your love never fails

In the darkness, in triumph, my soul shall sing
 Of His mercy, and kindness, our offering of praise
 Our God never fails
 Our God never fails

Words & Music: BJ Pridham
 Year & Publisher: © 2010 Planetshakers Ministries Int. Inc. (Admin. by Crossroad
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PSALM 23

The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want
 He makes me lie in pastures green
 He leads me by the still, still waters
 His goodness restores my soul

And I will trust in You alone
 And I will trust in You alone
 For Your endless mercy follows me
 Your goodness will lead me home

He guides my ways in righteousness
 And He anoints my head with oil
 And my cup, it overflows with joy
 I feast on His pure delights

And I will trust in You alone
 And I will trust in You alone
 For Your endless mercy follows me
 Your goodness will lead me home

And though I walk the darkest path
 I will not fear the evil one
 For You are with me, and Your rod and staff
 Are the comfort I need to know

And I will trust in You alone
 And I will trust in You alone
 For Your endless mercy follows me
 Your goodness will lead me home

For Your endless mercy follows me
 Your goodness will lead me home

Words & Music: Stuart Townend
 Year & Publisher: © 1996 Thankyou Music (Admin. by EMI Christian Music Publishing)
 CCLI License #: 324618

YOU ARE FAITHFUL**Verse**

You are faithful
 I believe Your Word is true
 You have never left
 Your children begging

You are faithful
 And my heart ascends to You
 As I lift my voice
 To praise your name

Chorus

Oh I love you no matter what I see
 No matter what I hear
 No matter what may seem to be

Oh I love you no matter what I know
 No matter how the winds
 Of life may blow
 This one thing I know,
 This one thing I know, that you are faithful

Words & Music: Tamara Winslow
 Year & Publisher: 2011
 CCLI License #: 324618

WONDERFUL GOD

There is no other God like You
 Who made the heavens and the earth
 And fills my heart with joy unending
 All I can do is give my life
 Offer to You a sacrifice
 Here is my heart for You unending

Bridge

All of my life, belongs to You alone
 With every breath, my song will rise to You

Chorus

You are the joy of every nation
 The giver of salvation
 Wonderful God
 You are God throughout the ages
 Enthroned upon our praises
 Wonderful God

Verse 2

Every morning when I rise
 It is Your presence I desire
 To see Your faithfulness unending

Mercy and goodness follow me
 For in Your presence I am free
 I put my trust in You unending

Words & Music: Denis Campos
 Year & Publisher: © 2009 CFN Music
 CCLI License #: 324618

DEEPER IN LOVE

Verse 1

There is a longing only You can fill
 A raging tempest only You can still
 My soul is thirsty Lord
 To know You as I'm known
 Drink from the river
 That flows before Your throne

Chorus

Take me deeper
 Deeper in love with You
 Jesus hold me close in Your embrace
 Take me deeper
 Deeper than I've ever been before
 I just want to love You more and more
 How I long to be deeper in love

Verse 2

Sunrise to sunrise
 I will seek Your face
 Drawn by the Spirit
 To the promise of Your grace
 My heart has found in You
 A hope that will abide
 Here in Your presence
 Forever satisfied

Words & Music: Ed Kerr | Geoffrey Cuellar | Paul Baloche | Samuel Hoffman
 Year & Publisher: © 1996 Integrity's Hosanna! Music (Admin. by EMI Christian Music
 Publishing), Integrity's Praise! Music (Admin. by EMI Christian Music Publishing)
 CCLI License #: 324618

SAVIOUR KING

Verse 1

Let now the weak say I have strength
By the spirit of power that raised Christ from the dead
Let now the poor stand and confess
That my portion is Him and I'm more than blessed

Pre Chorus

Let now our hearts burn with a flame
A fire consuming all for Your Son's holy Name
And with the heavens we declare You are our King

Chorus 1

We love You Lord we worship You
You are our God You alone are good

Verse 2

Let now Your church shine as the bride
That You saw in Your heart as You offered up Your life
And now the lost be welcomed home
By the saved and redeemed those adopted as Your own

Chorus 1

We love You Lord we worship You
You are our God You alone are good

Chorus 2

You asked Your Son to carry this
The heavy cross our weight of sin

Chorus 3

I love You Lord I worship You
Hope which was lost now stands renewed

Chorus 4

I give my life to honour this
The love of Christ the Saviour King
(REPEAT)

Words & Music: Marty Sampson | Mia Fieldes
Year & Publisher: © 2006 Hillsong Music Publishing
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POTTER'S HAND

Beautiful Lord
Wonderful Saviour
I know for sure
All of my days are held in Your hand
Crafted into Your perfect plan

You gently call me
Into Your presence
Guiding me by Your Holy Spirit
Teach me dear Lord
To live all of my life
Through Your eyes

I'm captured by
Your holy calling
Set me apart
I know You're drawing
Me to Yourself
Lead me Lord I pray

Chorus

Take me, mould me
Use me, fill me
I give my life to
The Potter's hand

Call me, guide me
Lead me, walk beside me
I give my life to
The Potter's hand

Words & Music: Darlene Zschech
Year & Publisher: © 1997 Wondrous Worship (Admin. by CopyCare Asia Ltd
(Singapore Branch))
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THANK YOU FOR LOVING ME

Verse 1

What love the Father has lavished on us
 That we should be called His sons and daughters
 Precious in His sight
 Greater love this world had never seen
 When He hung on that tree
 O why would He do such a thing
 For dirty sinners like you and me?

Chorus

O God thank You for loving me
 When on the cross You made history
 Lord You died for me
 Forever my praise will go to Thee
 O God thank You for choosing me
 To be Your child and bear Your name
 O Jesus I will never cease to sing Your praise

Verse 2

Your love is patient and humble and kind
 It's greater than all my sin
 It always protects and trusts and hopes
 And will have no end
 It's Your love that lifted me up from the depths
 Set my feet on a solid rock
 With a firm place to stand
 Lord I always will trust in Your loving hand

Bridge

How wide how long
 How high how deep
 How endless is Your love for me
 How wide how long
 How high how deep
 How endless is Your love for me
 How endless is Your love for me

Ending

Thank You for loving me
 Thank You for loving me

Words & Music: Tommy Walker

Year & Publisher: © 2003 Integrity's Praise! Music
 (Admin. by EMI Christian Music Publishing); WeMobile
 Music (Admin. by EMI Christian Music Publishing)
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GOD OF AGES

Verse 1

God of ages bringing glory here
 You are good
 You are good
 Son of righteousness
 You are all I seek
 With all my heart

Pre-chorus

Giver of life,
 Hope for the lost is in You
 All of the earth shines with Your light
 Your glory

Chorus

You are the God who lives
 You are the God who heals
 You are my hope, my everything
 You brought salvation to us
 Offered Your peace to the world
 You are my Lord my everything

Verse 2

In your promise and your faithfulness
 I will trust all my days
 King forever, reign in majesty
 Be glorified

Words & Music: Ben Fielding
 Year & Publisher: © 2007 Hillsong Music Publishing
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IN CHRIST ALONE

In Christ alone, my hope is found
 He is my light, my strength, my song
 This cornerstone, this solid ground
 Firm through the fiercest drought and storm

What heights of love, what depths of peace
 When fears are stilled, when strivings ceased
 My Comforter, my all in all
 Here in the love of Christ I stand

In Christ alone who took on flesh
 Fullness of God in helpless Babe
 This gift of love and righteousness
 Scorned by the ones He came to
 'Til on that cross as Jesus died
 The wrath of God was satisfied
 For every sin on Him was laid
 Here in the death of Christ I live

There in the ground His body lay
 Light of the world by darkness slain
 Then bursting forth in glorious day
 Up from the grave He rose again
 And as He stands in victory
 Sin's curse has lost its grip on me
 For I am His, and He is mine
 Bought with the precious blood of Christ

No guilt in life, no fear in death
 This is the power of Christ in me
 From life's first cry to final breath
 Jesus commands my destiny
 No power of hell, no scheme of man
 Can ever pluck me from His hand
 'Til He returns, or calls me home
 Here in the power of Christ I'll stand

Words & Music: Keith Getty | Stuart Townend
 Year & Publisher: © 2001 Thankyou Music (Admin. by EMI Christian Music Publishing)
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KNOWING YOU

Verse 1

All I once held dear built my life upon
 All this world reveres and wars to own
 All I once thought gain I have counted loss
 Spent and worthless now compared to this

Chorus

Knowing You, Jesus, knowing You
 There is no greater thing
 You're my all, You're the best
 You're my joy my righteousness
 And I love You, Lord

Verse 2

Now my heart's desire is to know You more
 To be found in You and known as Yours
 To possess by faith what I could not earn
 All surpassing gift of righteousness

Verse 3

O to know the power of Your risen life
 And to know You in Your sufferings
 To become like You in Your death my Lord
 So with You to live and never die

Words & Music: Graham Kendrick
 Year & Publisher: © 1993 Make Way Music
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notes

notes

A large, light blue rectangular area with horizontal dashed lines, intended for writing notes. The area is bounded by a solid black line on the left and a solid black line on the top. The dashed lines are evenly spaced and run horizontally across the entire width of the blue area.

COVENANT EFC

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