

**NECF**  
MALAYSIA



**40** DAYS  
**FAST & PRAYER**  
CHILDREN



# TABLE OF CONTENTS



# A Heart to Know You

DAY 1 – 5

**God our Rebuilder**

7

DAY 6 – 10

**God our Redeemer**

18

DAY 11 – 15

**God our Rescuer**

29

DAY 16 – 20

**God our Refiner**

40

DAY 21 – 25

**God our Reformer**

51

DAY 26 – 30

**God our Rekindler**

62

DAY 31 – 35

**God our Revenger**

73

DAY 36 – 40

**God our Restorer**

84

## Acknowledgment / 97



# A HEART TO KNOW YOU

Shalom, Children,

We have come to another year of 40-Day Fast and Prayer through which we can have the opportunity to serve God by joining children nation-wide, together with our parents and teachers, to pray and intercede for our country.

Life has slowly gone back to its normal pace, though we still must take many precautions to secure our safety and adjust ourselves accordingly to changes around us.

However, Covid-19 has left many headaches and problems for our government, parents, teachers, pastors, and so on, to handle. We can play our part in following their instructions carefully and at the same time, we really want to encourage you to spend time reading the Bible and following through our daily devotion so that you can gain wisdom from God's Word. After reading the devotions and related scriptures (you can choose to read the 10 chapters scheduled, or only those references given), and you can pray about and obey them, so that they can help us make good choices, know how to deal with and have wisdom in all situations and for problem solving, giving us good courage to face the uncertainties and unknowns of life.

Our Theme for this year is “A Heart to Know You.” Yes, it is important to know God, and indeed our purpose in life is to know Him more and more. God looks at our hearts seriously more than anything else in our lives. If we give our hearts to Him, He would be greatly pleased, and we would have His presence with joy too.

There are altogether 8 sub-themes in this booklet where each theme lasts for 5 days:

- In day 1-5, we want to know **God as our REBUILDER**.
- In day 6-10, we want to know **God as our REDEEMER**.
- In day 11-15, we want to know **God as our RESCUER**.
- In day 16-20, we want to know **God as our REFINER**.
- In day 21-25, we want to know **God as our REFORMER**.
- In day 26-30, we want to know **God as our REKINDLER**.
- In day 31-35, we want to know **God as our REVENGER**.
- In day 36-40, we want to know **God as our RESTORER**.

We have also divided the daily prayer points as such: First, think about the devotion, and pray for yourself and respond to God accordingly. Second, pray for the youth and the children. Thirdly, pray for the church and the nation.

Now, how about fasting? There are a few ways to do it. You can skip a meal daily if you get permission from your parents. Or you can fast from eating certain food or taking certain drinks you crave for, such as burgers and fries, and soft drinks, or abstain from doing certain things, such as, playing video games and watching videos online.

We hope that you have a wonderful journey, and this can really help you cultivate a good habit of reading the Word of God and setting apart daily time to pray to God, our loving, Heavenly Father. Blessings to you and your family in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

Disclaimer: Dear parents, guardians, and teachers, please be advised that younger children may need guidance for some of the prayer points involving social issues such as child prostitution, underage marriage, and dumped babies, all sadly very real problems in Malaysia today.



DAY  
1 - 5



## GOD OUR REBUILDER

**DAY 1****Under Construction**

(Ref Ezra 5:16; 6:14)

King Solomon built a beautiful temple in Jerusalem. Gold, silver and well-cut stones were found everywhere. This was the holy and special place where the Jews worshipped God. However, it was destroyed! It wasn't an ocean wave that wiped it out like a sandcastle at the beach though. The Jews had disobeyed and worshipped other gods; doing many wrong things that made God disappointed. He had to stop and punish them because they were so stubborn and wouldn't listen.

A powerful enemy king and his army from Babylon attacked and broke down the city walls, their homes and worst of all, their grand temple. The stones were smashed and turned into rubble. The gold and silver were stolen. He also took the Jews away from their homeland.

The Jews experienced long captivity at Babylon. It wasn't two years like our Covid lockdowns but 70 years!! Nevertheless, God had mercy and caused the enemy king to let them go back to Jerusalem and rebuild the Temple.

Prophets Haggai and Ezra helped them rebuild the altar to God first. Next, the foundation of the temple was completed. Enemies tried to stop them, but the King of Babylon said, "Let them build." Eventually, the entire temple was completed. The priests - like pastors - got their jobs back to lead and teach the people to obey and worship only God. They were full of joy.

We must repent as the Jewish people did of their sins. Then we can offer Jesus our worship and thanksgiving.

**Think about it:** Are we obeying and following the Word of God and also listening well to Jesus or do we need to repent of some sin?

## Today's Prayers:



*Dear Heavenly Father, I'm sorry that I keep bad feelings about You and others sometimes. Please give me a soft heart that is quick to say "Sorry," and "Please forgive me," when I am wrong. In Jesus' name, Amen.*



Police reports show that many youths have been hurting themselves in recent years. Pray that young girls and boys would not be easily led by the devil to harm themselves in sadness but would instead, find Jesus and live joyfully with hope for the future.



Many people owe a lot of money and are unable to pay the money because they do not have a job. Pray that they would get proper help.





## Repaired Wall

(Ref Nehemiah 6:15)

Yesterday we learned that the Temple of God that had gotten smashed to pieces was rebuilt because the Jews had repented and returned to Jerusalem to worship the true God. There was still a big mess of ruins! The wall was still broken down! What could they do?

Nehemiah was so very sad and sick at heart. He asked permission from King Artaxerxes of Babylon to go to Jerusalem to rebuild the wall. The King said, "Go." So Nehemiah went, spied out the place, and then organized the building crew. The Jews and even their priests got busy as they cooperated to work diligently to get the job done.

Uh-oh. Trouble showed up. Some jealous men tried to stop their work. Sometimes, other children may call you insulting names or tell lies about you or maybe even threaten to harm you because you were doing good things. Similarly, these enemy men did the same thing to Nehemiah and the Jews. Kacau (disturb), only.\* Nehemiah stood firm because he had God on his side. Eventually, the whole wall with its 12 gates was completed in just 52 days!!

When we are very disobedient and talk back to our parents, the relationship walls in our lives will start to break down. If we continue to be stubborn day after day, there will be ugly ruins. If we have Jesus in our lives, He can help us to repent, confess and rebuild. He's our awesome Savior. He loves and forgives us, but

we must stop doing what's wrong and do what's right instead (see also 1 John 1:9). Rejoice and praise the Lord.

**Think about it:** How is the Lord Jesus helping you to rebuild broken-down places in your life?

## Today's Prayers:



*Dear Heavenly Father, please help me to forgive my siblings, friends, classmates, and other people whom I have quarreled with over some small matter, or when I don't feel good because they said nasty words to me. In Jesus name, Amen.*



Young boys and girls are finding it hard to get jobs nowadays because they do not have the skills bosses are looking for. Some are too choosy while others quit their jobs too easily. Pray that parents and schools would prepare them well and teach them proper work values, and that the students would accept the teaching.



Pray that when life gets back to normal and as schools, shops, and so on eventually open for business, all parties would know how to manage the situation well.





## Great Wall of Jerusalem

(Ref Nehemiah 12:27, 40)

Children and teenagers, please know that when we sin, whether small or big, against our Heavenly Father God, hopefully we will feel ashamed. Shame and remorse should lead us to repentance and confession to seek forgiveness from Jesus. From there, we can begin the process of rebuilding what was broken. For example, if someone has damaged something, they need to repair or replace it. The Jews did this when they came back to Jerusalem and rebuilt the altar, the Temple and the wall. Shame left, joy came, and they worshipped the one true God once again.

After the rebuilding, the Levites and priests who were leaders of the Jews were brought in to celebrate and dedicate the wall to God with joyfulness and thanksgiving. Nehemiah, who had supervised the wall reconstruction organized the celebrations.

Imagine it! There's the Great Wall of Jerusalem, wide enough for two choirs and musicians to walk along the top. The choirs proceeded to sing praises to God as they marched. One group went right and the other left, meeting at the Gate of the Guard, and then paraded into the house of God, the Temple. You could call them "The Worship Team" like what you have in church during service.

Their purpose was to lead the Jews in worship, praise and to give thanks to God. They could do this because of their repentance and the restoration process. We must always remember that

Jesus made the way for us to be forgiven too when we repent and confess our sins to Him.

Joy will follow.

**Think about it:** Ask yourself, "Am I willing to repent, confess my wrong-doings, seek Jesus' forgiveness and then rebuild my relationship with Him and others?"

## Today's Prayers:



*Dear Heavenly Father, help me appreciate the times I get to spend with others in Church or Sunday school so that I won't miss sessions as those are the times when I can draw near to You and to others. In Jesus' name, Amen.*



Many young boys and girls suffer from mental health issues because they have unhappy families. Pray that parents would pay close attention to their children and talk to them more, and the children would share any bad feelings with their parents.



Pray that God would comfort and heal people who have lost their loved ones, especially those who are very sad because they could not even visit or see their loved ones for the last time during the lockdowns.



## Terribly Tragic Trouble

(Ref Esther 10:3; Job 1:20,22)

Terrible troubles often come into our lives. Troubles like a car accident or wasting family's money on alcohol, drugs, or gambling instead of spending on food and clothing; and sometimes, abuse happens. These are tragic! In the case of Queen Esther and her cousin Mordecai, wicked Haman wanted to murder them and all the Jews. In another example, Satan wanted to harm a man named Job and cause him to curse God.

What did these people in the Bible do to overcome their troubles?

Queen Esther and Mordecai prayed and fasted, cried out to God for help, then appealed to the king. God made the king listen and help to stop the Jews from being massacred.

Job was a crazy rich but good man who feared God and helped the poor. Satan caused enemies to steal Job's thousands of sheep and camels and killed his servants. Next, a typhoon-like wind blew on the house where Job's children were, and it collapsed and killed them all. After that Job got sores all over his body which attracted so many worms that they looked like clothes on Job. Disgusting, right?

Job's suffering was exceedingly great!

Do you think Job cursed God like Satan hoped he would?

NOPE!

He worshipped God, praising the Name of the LORD despite his suffering.

Job did ask many “Whys?” and that’s ok for us to ask too when we are afraid and have great sadness and suffering. Don’t demand from God. Cry out to Him. Trust Him because He knows our hurts and He cares. Hold tightly onto Jesus.

**Think about it:** Are you in trouble and feeling fearful? Talk to the Lord Jesus and an adult you trust to get help.

## Today's Prayers:



*Dear Heavenly Father, help me not to grumble or complain, but to give thanks to You in all circumstances, so that I can tell others how good You are and help them get to know You as well. In Jesus' name, Amen.*



Youths and children now spend more time making friends via computers and handphones, seldom relating to others physically. Many do not know how to build a proper relationship with others. Pray that parents, teachers and churches, and so on, would guide and help them overcome this problem.



Pray that Malaysians would not be tricked by people who try to divide races and make us hate one another by telling lies and talking negatively.



## Hold His Hand

(Ref Job 13:15,23, 24)

I feel so sad and sorry for Job. He was so rich but yet became bankrupt suddenly - no money. Then he suffered greatly from painful sores on his body. The worst thing - all his children had passed away. Job's life was all broken down like the temple in Jerusalem - in ruins.

Job's three friends with funny names: Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar came to comfort him. At first, because they saw Job's deep grief and pain, they kept quiet for one whole week. Could you do that?

Then it was a volcanic explosion of words. BOOM! HISS! ROAR!

No one could keep quiet then. The friends accused Job of sinning! Job was such a blameless man yet his friends said he must have secret sins that God knew about that caused these terrible troubles.

Job spluttered, "You are miserable comforters!" (Job 16:2 NIV) I have not done wrong and God knows!" Then Job asked God, "Why do You hide Your face and consider me Your enemy?" (Job 13:15, 23, 24)

Crying hard with grief, Job wished his friends' "long-winded speeches" would stop. Other people made fun of him and even hit him on the cheek! Job wondered if there was any hope.

In difficult times, we may think the same but as we read more about Job, we'll learn that we can have hope in God. Trust Him and rebuild lives of greater faith in Jesus because He walks with us in our troubles. Hold His hand.

**Think about it:** Sometimes, just quietly sitting beside a grieving person is enough. Be careful if you speak.

## Today's Prayers:



*Dear Heavenly Father, please help me not to get angry or upset when I am wronged by others. Instead, help me turn to You so that I can overcome my anger and disappointment. In Jesus' name, Amen.*



Young boys and girls like to make friends through online platforms and fall in love without knowing each other personally. Pray that they would be careful and not be cheated by people with bad intentions.



Pray that youngsters with dreams and hopes for a peaceful and harmonious country would work hard to make Malaysia a better place to live in.



DAY  
6 - 10



## GOD OUR REDEEMER



DAY 6

## Bitterness of Soul

(Ref Job 19:25-26; 27:5-6)

Job continued to be miserable just like how we sometimes feel. Our misery might go on and on, and though we want *OUT*, it seems God *does* not bother. However, we must believe that God does care.

Job told his three comforter friends that he KNOWS God, his "Redeemer lives" and he "will see" God despite their tormenting him with all their accusations; having his brothers, relatives, guests, servants and even the little boys loath, detest and ridicule him; having his wife tell him he had bad breath; and having all his possessions stolen. His "heart yearned" for God. In this, we can find hope for ourselves too.

Here are other famous words that were spoken by Job after his losses, "*The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away, may the Name of the LORD be praised*" (Job 1:21).

Job scolded his friends who kept insisting God was punishing him because he had sinned. "Look at God's powerful, awesome creation," he directed. "Look at God's wisdom, breath that brings life, and His greatness. I'm terrified of God's almighty power and presence. God is my Judge; I wouldn't purposely sin. Stop thinking I'm wicked. It's okay to question why God has left me in this predicament." Job was still saying he had not done wrong, and that he had integrity and was innocent.

Do you feel that Job believed that, in God's good time and manner, He would redeem Job's circumstances even though they "tasted" so bitter in his soul? Let us praise the Name of the LORD even when things aren't going well, as did Job.

**Think about it:** Will I trust and praise Jesus my Redeemer God and His greatness despite my terrible troubles?

## Today's Prayers:



*Dear Heavenly Father, give me a loving spirit with gentleness and self-control, and help me clear out every sense of bitterness. Let my heart rejoice in You. In Jesus' name, Amen.*



Many virtual platforms have been created for young boys and girls to make their dreams and imaginations come true. Pray that they would not be misused by wicked ones, and young boys and girls would know the difference between the real and the virtual world.



Pray that the Prime Minister of Malaysia would give good advice to our Agong and lead the nation well.





## God is Greater than Mankind

(Ref Job 33:12; 36:26)

While Job and his three comforters chattered on, did you know that a fourth friend was listening too? He was Elihu, and because he was younger than them all, he let them all talk first, zipping his lips out of respect. By the time the others finally shut up, boy, was Elihu ever mad!

He was angry that the three men could not show that Job was wrong because he felt Job made himself look better than God. In some ways, it was understandable to wonder why good people suffer but it was certainly wrong to accuse God of injustice. Elihu told him, "God is greater than man" and that we have a limited understanding of God.

Elihu then gave a science lesson about the water cycle. Could any of them make that happen? Could they make it continue? "Stop and consider God's wonders!" (Job 37:14), Elihu exclaimed. We may never know or understand why we have terrible troubles but know this, God is Great and Righteous, and His Son Jesus is our Redeemer. Like Job, we must realize how BIG God is; for example, all the water in the oceans, seas, rivers and lakes in the world can fit into God's palm! Experiment and compare; how much water can you hold in your palm? So, it is not difficult for God to help us with all that is lost or broken in our lives. Our pain and troubles give us opportunities to know Him more. When we trust Him no matter what, we can learn how faithful and loving He is.

After Elihu finished speaking, guess Who spoke next?

**Think About It:** Spend more time learning about Jesus from the four Gospels, then you'll get to know how BIG God is. When troubles come, trust Him.

## Today's Prayers:



*Dear Heavenly Father, please remind me of Your greatness so that I would know that, in You, all things are possible. Show me You are strong and powerful in every situation of my life. In Jesus' name, Amen.*



Every year, some young girls, mostly from poor families, get pregnant before marriage, making their lives even more difficult because they would not be ready for such a heavy responsibility at such a young age. Pray that young boys and girls would spend their time and energy on healthy activities like reading and sports and not get into this kind of trouble.



Many people took out their money from EPF to buy food and pay rent, and other essentials and now have very little money left when they have to stop working. Pray that the government would take care of this situation and that God would help them in times of need.





# Planted in Jesus Our Redeemer

(Ref Job 40:3; 42:2; Psalm 1:3)

The LORD God spoke to Job, saying, "You asked me lots of questions, now it's My turn to ask you some. Answer Me if you are so clever and think I'm not just."

Remember, we mentioned how BIG God is? This is because He is the Creator of the universe, and He keeps it all ticking. This is why the LORD could ask Job questions that only He knows the answers to, like: "Do you know the time bears give birth;" "Who let the wild donkey go free;" "Did you make horses hop like locusts" and "the laughing ostrich run faster than a horse?" "Can you capture a river, trap it and pierce its nose?"

Ah-h! That made Job humbly confess, "I am unworthy to reply...I know You can do all things!" Those were the correct answers. The LORD is the all-powerful Creator Who knows all things. He's the One Who gave us Jesus our Redeemer to save us from our sins. He can redeem our lives in His good time and way as He did for Job.

Job realized he had to trust and plant himself in God like a tree that is planted by the water where it becomes strong, sturdy and fruitful. We need to be rooted in God through Jesus, who is the Water of Life. This way, when troubles like wild, fierce storms want to break us and blow us away, we can choose to humbly say, "I'm going to trust Jesus, and stay strong in my faith in Him because "from the LORD comes deliverance" (Psalm 3:8 NIV)."

**Think about it:** Will I commit to putting my trust in Jesus and be strong in Him despite bad situations in my life?

## Today's Prayers:



*Dear Heavenly Father, when I look at the sky, sun, water, soil and all kinds of plants and animals, I praise You for You have done wonderful things and continue to do so beyond my imagination. I want to tell You my dreams, problems, and fears, and look to You for help daily. In Jesus' name, Amen.*



More and more babies are being dumped and many have been found dead. Pray that young girls would fear God and know that life is a gift from God and is not to be simply dumped, and would seek help from their parents or teachers, with the possibility of putting the baby up for adoption instead.



Pray that the drainage systems in the country would be improved so that floods would not happen again.





## God is Omnipresent

(Ref Psalm 6:9)

Do you love the psalms? I do. They can help us to learn more about the character of God and how to talk with Him, which takes time. Don't say, "Okay, I've read my Bible and said 'Hello' to God today; I can check that off. Phew! Now I can go play my computer games."

As you read the psalms, take time and feel right along with David, Asaph, Moses, Heman and others who were the authors. They loved, feared and honoured their Heavenly Father. They had the heart to know Him, to spend time with Him and not to rush off to do other things.

Can you pronounce "omnipresent"? It means the "presence of God is everywhere at the same time." The book of Psalms teaches us this. Google articles told me that the psalms are divided into five books, each one telling us where God is. He is *beside* us (Book 1); *before* us (Book 2); *around* us (Book 3); *above* us (Book 4) and *among* us (Book 5).

This is comforting because when we need Him, He's right there. We can say, "*The LORD has heard my cry for mercy; the LORD accepts my prayer*" (*Psalm 6:9*).

Another biggish word, 'doxology' means "a song of praise". When you read "praise be to the Lord" followed by "Amen and Amen", you will know that's the end of one of the books.

Many of these writers, especially David, had had difficult lives but they still prayed to God and praised God. We can too, in Jesus' Name. He will accept us and our prayers.

**Think About It:** Think about how God is with you. Then start praying and singing a doxology, worshipping the Lord. Pray a psalm or make up one of your own.

## Today's Prayers:



*Dear Heavenly Father, everywhere I go, especially when I am alone, I would remember that You are with me, and that You would protect me and keep me safe from all harm. In Jesus' name, Amen.*



Many young boys and girls in secondary schools have been found to abuse drugs. Pray against peer influences and people who try to make money by selling drugs to them.



Water used in our homes comes mainly from polluted rivers and the pollution is getting worse. Pray that the problem would be solved so that we can have clean water.



## A Heart to Know God

(Ref Psalms 18:46; 24:9)

If we want a heart that knows God, we have to know something about God and His heart. So far, we have learned from the Temple rebuilding that the Jews had to repent. Why? It's because God is holy. From Job's story, we discovered God is just and BIGGER than us and from the psalms, that He is omnipresent.

Do read the psalms as they are magnificent and show us much about God. Today, we'll see Him as our Saviour, the Redeemer. Redeemer means to "buy back" and to "save from our sins". God had Adam and Eve's heart and they had His in the Garden of Eden. Alas, Adam and Eve allowed Satan to deceive them and gave their heart to him. If you do not have Jesus as your Redeemer-Saviour then do you know who has your heart? Who do you want to have your heart? Jesus or Satan? It's the choice we each *must* make.

David writes, God is the "horn of my salvation;" He is "my Rock" and my Saviour". "Horn" shows defence and strength. "Rock" is also strength and immovability. That means we can depend upon this Redeemer-Saviour. Jesus is God, so when David says God is like this, we can know Jesus is the same. We can depend on Him to save us from our sins when we repent and ask Him to save us.

Jesus “refreshes our souls” (Psalm 23:3NIV). This is our King of Glory, the LORD Almighty. He’ll keep your heart and you’ll know some of His.

“Let Him come in”.

**Think About It:** If you have yet to ask Jesus to be your Saviour-Redeemer, why not do so today. If He’s already your Saviour, praise Him.

## Today's Prayers:



*Dear Heavenly Father, I pray that nothing and nobody would take away my love for You. I pray that You would touch me again so that I would love You dearly. In Jesus' name, Amen.*



Some young boys and girls skip classes or run away from school to play around, and often end up fighting, stealing and gambling, and so on. Pray that parents and teachers would come up with good plans to help them go back to school.



People in this country need more freedom to speak what they believe to be true but they are being stopped from saying what they need to say. Pray that our government will have a listening ear to hear the truth.

DAY  
11 - 15



## GOD OUR RESCUER



## Omnipotent Rescuer

(Ref Psalms 28:3-11; 31:21-23 NIV)

Here's another big word, 'omnipotence,' which means, "power to do anything and is perfectly good". This is another aspect of our Heavenly Father's character. God's omnipotence allows us to look up to Him even in the midst of hot troubles, for He alone can save! We can call God our "Rescuer". The psalmists who wrote the psalms confidently said so.

David the shepherd boy who became king had so many troubles that I don't even know where to begin to list them. But I'll tell you a couple of them. Some people told lies about him. He also became a fugitive, experienced living in caves and stumbling among rocks because someone wanted to kill him. Despite all of this, he turned his heart to God and found out wonderful things about Him.

He found out God's love and faithfulness is unfailing, and that God would never forsake him. Most of all, because God is omnipotent, He could rescue him from all his terrible troubles. He described God's voice as powerful, majestic, making sturdy trees twist and break, calves leap and so on. If you shout, does anything like that happen to you? David continued to include more descriptions like, God is my fortress, strength, and salvation.

David asked God to teach him His ways and said he'd "seek God's face". We too can put our trust in God and His unfailing love. You will discover the wonders of God's heart of love, so do take heart

and put your hope in Him. He's our Omnipotent Rescuer too. Trust and praise the LORD!

**Think About It:** Turn your heart towards God and discover His unfailing love. Rejoice in the Lord and praise Him in Jesus' name. While you are at it, use some musical instruments.

## Today's Prayers:



*Dear Heavenly Father, please remind me of the great and beautiful things that You have done in my life, even things that I might have never thought about or have forgotten. I give thanks and praise You. In Jesus' name, Amen.*



Pray that the Malaysian government would conduct more healthy activities for youth that would help them grow with the right and positive mindsets and values.



Many people are calling government helplines to get counselling because they are depressed or anxious. Pray that these people would get the counselling they need and that God would heal their wounds and fears.



## DAY 12

# Feeling Depressed

(Ref Psalms 42:5, 11; 44:7,8)

Guess what!? Today we finished reading Book 1 of Psalms and started Book 2. Did you see the words “Praise be to the LORD...” and the words “Amen and Amen”? Book 1 shows us the LORD is still omnipresent and **beside** us. Let’s see how he goes **before** us, meaning He goes ahead of us (Book 2). We are also introduced to the songwriters, the Sons of Korah.

The Sons of Korah were often depressed, it seems. They asked their souls, “Why so downcast...disturbed?” They did have major trauma in their lives and we’ll look at their history some other day. They didn’t harm themselves though. Do you know what they did instead? They encouraged themselves and others, to “put your hope in God”. Then they chose to declare, “I will yet praise Him, My Savior and My God.”

That’s a very positive attitude for us to take note of too when we are feeling down. Remember our omnipotent, powerful Savior and Redeemer is also our Rescuer. David remarked, the “Lord delivers,” so cry out to Him and wait patiently for His answers to our difficulties. It may seem like we are stuck in the mud, but our Rescuer Jesus can lift us and set us up on a rock. David and Korah’s sons asked God for mercy and help every time they felt down, putting their hope in Him.

He gave them victory. Maybe it wasn’t a magical moment but day after day, He gave His help and care because of His unfailing

love for them. We have the same Rescuer. Boast about God and praise His name forever just like Job, David, and the Sons of Korah did so long ago.

**Think About It:** When I'm feeling depressed, will I cry out to the Lord and put my hope in Him? Will I sing praises to Him? Try it.

## Today's Prayers:



*Dear Heavenly Father, I pray that the joy of the Lord would be my strength, and that I would be filled by Your joy every day and help others to find such joy and hope in You also. In Jesus' name, Amen.*



Pray for parents who have growing kids experiencing psychological and physical changes, that they would know how to guide their children with wisdom from the Lord as they grow and develop.



Pray that foreigners who are trapped in our country without jobs will be able to return safely to their countries or go where they can settle down.



DAY 13

## Trust in the LORD

(Ref Psalms 46:1-2; 55:22)

Sometimes people can be greedy for things such as money, fame or food, or like the Sons of Korah's father, named Korah, who was greedy for power. He wanted to know why Aaron and Moses were ruling over all of them, and why shouldn't *he* be the High Priest instead of Aaron! Korah stirred up a rebellion with Dathan, Abiram and 250 other co-conspirators.

God came to the rescue and said to Moses, "I'll show who is boss and create a test." The test results showed that God was the Boss and that He had put Aaron as the High Priest. God then punished the rebels. It was a terrifying time. The ground swallowed up Korah, Dathan and Abiram, while fire descended from heaven and consumed the 250 others. The rest of the Israelites fled in terror (Numbers 16:1-40; 26:11).

The sons of Korah were kept unharmed but had mental stress and depression most likely because they would have seen what happened to their father. They learned a HUGE lesson though - that God is omnipotent and they can put their hope in Him. They said, "God is their Refuge and strength...and they would not fear even though the earth" opened up.

Asaph, another psalm writer, wrote that we can call on the Lord in the day of trouble and his all-powerful Almighty God would deliver, and rescue when people honour Him. David concurs,

"Cast all your care on the LORD," he said. Certainly, in God, we can put our trust and not be afraid.

**Think About It:** What are you afraid of? Talk to the Almighty God about it; you can trust Him.

## Today's Prayers:



*Dear Heavenly Father, I pray that You would make me wise and not fall into the trap of evil ones who seek to trick or harm me. In Jesus' name, Amen.*



Pray that children and youths would receive accurate sex education that is suitable for their age and development either through parenting sessions or school syllabus so that they would have better understanding and protection.



Pray that businesses would have fair competition, and that they would make good products for their customers and that people would work hard with their knowledge and skills.





## DAY 14

# In the Shadow of His Wings

(Ref Psalms 57:1; 63:7)

Have you all started compiling biblical ‘big words’ of vocabulary into a dictionary? If so, here’s another word to add to your collection: ‘psalmist’. You would have read this word on Day 11. It simply means ‘the person who writes a psalm’. A ‘psalm’ of course, is a ‘song’. The book of Psalms in the Bible can be sung as a song or prayed as a prayer.

Often, the psalmists would write ‘a new song’ after a time of great difficulty in which they had learned something new about God. Or, maybe they had just wanted to praise and thank Him for helping them in their times of trouble. For example, David wrote descriptively that God protected him “under the shadow of His wings”. From that spot where someone was trying to kill him, he could sing even in the scariness of his situation.

This reminds me of the story where there was a barn fire and a mother hen clucked at her chicks. They all ran and hid safely under her wings. Momma hen protected her babies so that when the fire was over, the chicks ran out unharmed.

This is like what God had done for David. It is also like what Jesus has done for us. He alone can save us from the punishment we deserve for sinning. When we accept Jesus as our Savior, He rescues us from the fire of hell, giving us the offered eternal life and the promise of being with Him forever one day. Sing praise

to the Name of the One Who can help us “escape from [eternal] death”.

**Think About It:** Are you safe under the shadow of God’s wings after having accepted Jesus as your Savior?

## Today's Prayers:



*Jesus, I want to be under the shadow of Your wings. I admit I'm a sinner and need salvation through Your blood that cleanses me of all my sin. I repent and turn from my sins to trust in You as my Savior. Forgive me. Cleanse Me. Thank You, Jesus. In Your Name I ask. Amen.*



Pray for youth leaders in the church that they would follow Jesus faithfully so that their genuine faith and obedience would draw many other youths to know and follow Jesus Christ.



Pray that our government would have good knowledge, experience, skill and foresight to manage the money and budget of our nation.





DAY 15

## Choose to Sing Praise

(Ref Psalms 71:5; 73:26; 67:7)

We have been reading about Job, David and others who have had terrible times of trouble. I think that during the past two years or more, we all have been through bad times too, with COVID-19 and its variants such as Delta and Omicron.

Many people fear this virus and hope they don't get it, or if they do get it, they fear it will get worse and they'll end up in the hospital. Even if they don't get sick, there are many troublesome SOP's of mask-wearing, hand-sanitizing, temperature-taking and social distancing. Not being able to see our friends at school or church is sad too. Of course, it's wise and important to still follow the SOP's.

During today's Bible reading, did you noticed that we sailed into Book 3 of Psalms where we are reminded that God is ***all around*** us? This means that even if we can't be with other people, God can still be with us even with the contagious coronavirus floating about.

Therefore, let us put our hope and confidence in the LORD God our Deliverer. Fear only Him because He is our Rock of Refuge. Our bodies and hearts may fail but God is our strength. Trust Him forever, starting today while you are still young. Keep trusting Him all the way till you are old and grey-haired.

The psalmist Asaph chose to sing, "I will praise" God's faithfulness even when he sometimes had doubts. He used his lips to shout for joy and his harp and lyre for music. Let us choose to sing a psalm of praise to the Lord, strumming a guitar or dancing our fingers on a keyboard for added melody, to the One Who saves.

**Think About It:** What do you fear? Tell the Lord about it and learn to fear Him only. Sing a psalm of praise to help yourself to overcome this fear.

## Today's Prayers:



*Dear Heavenly Father, please fill me with Your love so that I would not be fearful of anything, because Your perfect love casts out all fear in me. In Jesus' name, Amen.*



Pray that youth leaders and their youth members would have good relationships with each other, and that all of them would learn from one another, as well as relate like true friends and not merely come together for activities.



Pray that our country would be able to make good quality products with fair prices so that we can compete well with our neighbouring countries like Myanmar, Cambodia and Laos in selling to many countries around the world.

DAY  
16 - 20



**GOD OUR REFINER**



## DAY 16

# The Holy Spirit Refiner

(Ref Psalms 78:6-7; 84:1-2)

Okay everyone, get out your BIG Words Dictionary and add 'refiner'. A refiner is a person, device or substance that helps to remove unwanted impurities so that we have only the good stuff left at the end of the process.

When we read the Bible, we discover that God is our Refiner through the Holy Spirit. He can help the followers of Jesus Christ to purify their hearts, minds and spirits, making it possible for them to become more Christ-like. God is pure and holy, and wants His followers to be pure and holy too.

When we fill our minds with horror stories and computer games of killings and gore, that is what we will be thinking about, and they will affect our hearts and spirits negatively. That is certainly, *not* pure refining.

However, when we submit to the Lord, committing to read the Word of God, filling our minds and hearts with His living Word and obeying it, we allow our spiritual connection with the Lord to grow stronger. It does take time to cut off the bad habits and form new ones, but let's allow our Refiner God to do His work.

For example, if we have trouble with anger but read, "In your anger do not sin" (Ephesians 4:26), then think of the time Jesus was angry at the hawkers using the Temple House of Prayer area as a marketplace, and how He chased them away; you'll see Jesus'

anger was different. He was angry at *unholy* actions. Compare this to your type of anger.

**Think About It:** Ask yourself, "What are my reasons for getting angry?" Your answers will help you realize where you need refinement towards becoming more Christ-like.

## Today's Prayers:



*Dear Heavenly Father, I ask that You help me see areas where I am weak so that, as I call out to You, I will be made strong. In Jesus' name, Amen.*



Pray that youths in church will build their lives strongly in Christ so that they would not be distracted by other commitments and busyness when they grow up, start working and have their own families.



Pray that problems in our country like rising prices, the falling value of the ringgit and foreigners stopping their investment in Malaysia would be solved so that Malaysians can live a better life.





DAY 17

## God Our Heavenly Judge

(Ref Psalms 89:15; 90:8,12)

We meet other psalmists in today's reading. These authors are Ethan, Moses and surprisingly, Adam, who some people believe, wrote Psalm 92. We also jumped from Book 3 to Book 4 of Psalms where we find our omnipresent God is **above** us. Keep in mind, too, that God is our Refiner and wants us to be holy.

Do you know that in a courtroom, besides the lawyers and the person accused of wrongdoing, there's a judge? He or she sits up high in the place called "the bench". From this above place, the judge has a good view and can look out at all the people.

Our God is above us as "the Judge of all the earth". He sees all the good and the bad we do, even our "secret sins". God our Judge is not being critical, but He says, "I love you just the way you are but I love you too much to let you stay that way." He wants us to wear holiness so much that it comes out in what we think, do and say.

So, instead of speaking foul language, telling lies, or thinking wrong thoughts, we will think about what is honest, right, excellent and more of these good things (Philippians 4:8). From our mind, these can go into our hearts, and then our actions will please our holy and righteous Judge, and we will gain a holier heart of wisdom that turns more and more toward Him.

**Think About It:** Think of holier things that will please our Heavenly Judge who loves you and wants you to get rid of the unholy things.

## Today's Prayers:



*Dear Heavenly Father, I pray that I would not sin against You by telling lies, bad-mouthing others, or by entertaining bad or dirty thoughts, and so on. I repent and ask for Your forgiveness. In Jesus' name, Amen.*



Pray for Christian parents, churches and leaders to be sensitive to the needs and problems faced by youth as they go through life transitions so that they would guide and counsel the youth well and not lose them to the world.



Pray that our school teachers would learn creative ways to teach their subjects so that students would not get bored or lose their interest in learning but will interact and participate instead. Pray also that parents would ensure that their children are studying well and work hard at their studies.





## DAY 18

# Patience and Integrity

(Ref Psalms 101:2; 105:4, 16-17)

It takes time and practice to learn to play the piano or guitar or to build up our muscles. It also takes time for followers of Jesus Christ to become more Christ-like. Like fruit on a tree, the fruit of the Holy Spirit (love, joy, patience and so on) takes time to develop in our minds, hearts and spirits and be turned into God-honoring actions.

Of course, we always have two choices: we can stubbornly say, "NO!" or humbly accept, "Yes, Lord, I'll seek Your will. What do you want me to learn?"

Remember Joseph with the ten jealous brothers who sold him as a slave? He ended up in Egypt, falsely accused and forgotten in prison for a long time.

Joseph could have become angry and bitter, shouting, 'UNFAIR!' and started a prison riot but he chose to be patient and to live a life of integrity. Integrity means to do what is right even when no one is looking. He feared God and put his hope in Him, instead. Later, when the time was right, God got Joseph out of prison, and he became a V.I.P. in Egypt. When his brothers showed up to buy food because of the severe famine, he told them, that though they meant to harm him, God turned it into good.

When difficult situations come to us, ask the Lord our Refiner what "muscles" and "fruit" He wants to grow in us. Patience and

integrity are good places to start. Let's conduct ourselves well with the Holy Spirit's help.

**Think About It:** Which characteristics of the fruit of the Holy Spirit need to grow and mature in your life? Start practising them today.

## Today's Prayers:



*Dear Heavenly Father, please help me to be patient, honest, kind, and loving, and to always behave in a manner that pleases You and give glory to You. In Jesus' name, Amen.*



Young boys and girls commit crimes for many reasons. Pray that those who have committed crimes would receive proper counselling and that the root of their problems would be solved to stop them from committing any crime again.



Pray that our school teachers will have the chance to go for training, to learn new things and exchange ideas with school teachers from other nationalities so that they could serve their schools and students better.





## DAY 19

# Sing Praise

(Ref Psalms 107:8,9; 110:2)

Wouldn't it be funny if you went to school and the teacher said, "OK, open up your history books, we're going to sing history!" You'd probably think it very weird. However, did you know that many of the psalms are related to the history of the Israelites and are *meant* to be sung?

The psalms tell not only of how they came out of Egypt, wandered in the desert as punishment for disobeying God but also of how God was among them and of all His mighty, awesome deeds. One of those deeds was when they were so very thirsty and He made water come out of a rock!

Time and again, the Israelites did wrong and God brought punishment. When they cried out for His help, their compassionate God brought miraculous relief. Then the Israelites praised the Lord because He gained the victory for them and His presence was among them. This was certainly something to sing praise about.

We can record our own history in a diary, especially about the help the Lord gives us. After many pages' worth, we can look back and see all of those blessings and victories we have had because of His presence with us. Then we can sing grateful songs of praise and thanksgiving to the Lord from the rising of the sun to its setting.

In this way, we can learn more of our Refiner God's unfailing love as we go through our hot troubles. May our love for Him grow in our minds, hearts and spirits as we learn to trust Him more every day.

**Think About It:** Name one thing the Lord has done for you. Now sing praise to Him.

### Today's Prayers:



*Dear Heavenly Father, I pray that I will always be grateful to You, to my parents and to those who love me. I thank You for those good things that You have done and given to me through them. In Jesus' name, Amen.*



Pray for children of immigrants or foreigners who come to Malaysia and cannot receive any Identity Card and so cannot attend schools, go for government hospital treatment, or get proper jobs in future. Pray that they would receive help and have the same basic rights as the local children.



Pray that our school teachers would not just teach their lessons but also spend time to encourage and inspire their pupils, and that the pupils would be receptive and diligent.



## DAY 20

# God's Word in Action

(Ref Psalm 119:9, 11, 105)

Yesterday we began Book 5 of Psalms where we learn God is among us. He was *among* the Israelites as they marched through the wilderness. He is among us because of Jesus Emmanuel (God with us). A pastor named Tony Evans said, "Jesus is God taking a selfie" because Jesus is the exact likeness of God (see Hebrews 1:3).

In John 1:1 we read "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God." "Word" refers to Jesus. In Psalm 119:11, the psalmist said he had "hidden God's word in his heart" so he wouldn't sin against God. Then the same psalm, in verse 105, he said God's word was "a lamp to his feet and a light for his path".

When we have the Word Jesus in our lives and let Him lead, guide and refine us we will not sin. Memorize God's Word in your head. Meditate upon it and obey it; that's how it gets into your heart and keeps your spirit purified. God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit work together for our good. Be glad, rejoice and bless the Lord as you seek Him with all your heart.

If we like to be mean but then we memorize, "Be kind to one another" (Ephesians 6:9-10), we might think, "Next time my classmate's pencil case falls onto the floor, I'll help him pick it up instead of kick it away." Ah, that is letting God's Word refine us to become more Christ-like.

**Think About It:** Think of ways we can take action according to God's Word, to help ourselves practise Christ-likeness.

## Today's Prayers:



Dear Heavenly Father, I ask that I would be willing to change every time I hear Your Word speaking to me to do so. In Jesus' name, Amen.



The way many youths spend money is worrying. Pray that their hearts would not keep desiring for more new things, like handphones, IT gadgets, games, etc. Pray that they would hunger for God and find contentment in Him instead.



Pray that our politicians would not love money or misuse religion for their benefits so that we can grow under a truly democratic nation. Pray also for integrity among politicians and God would continue to strengthen them and give them wisdom.



DAY  
21 - 25



## GOD OUR REFORMER

**DAY 21**

# Reformer God

(Ref Psalms 127:1; 130:3,4)

Time to dust off your dictionaries again. Add ‘reformer’. According to Google, a ‘reformer’ is someone who makes changes to something to improve it. God is our Reformer. He reforms our thoughts, dreams, actions and our destination through the Word of God.

In Psalm 127, psalmist Solomon said that “Unless the LORD builds the house,” the labourers’ work will be useless. That’s why it’s so important to know the Word of God and that’s why we must allow our Reformer God to do His work in us. When we become followers of Jesus Christ, He gives us a new heart to do His will and that is a BIG reform to start us off.

The Jews who returned to Jerusalem from captivity in Babylon had been reformed. They used to worship so many different gods and didn’t listen to the One who had led and helped them in the desert and was living among them. Now, they just wanted to worship this one true God. They really learned their lesson.

Many of the psalms are called, “Songs of Ascents”, which means “to go up”. Some of these psalms retell the Jews’ history and remind them of where they’d gone wrong; of God’s forgiveness when they had repented; and taught them how to praise Him. They sang these on the road to Jerusalem when they went there for festivals and climbed up the steps into the Temple to give God praise.

I think it would be pretty cool to sing praises in the car on the way to church and while going up the church steps to sit in our seats. Young people, sing songs of our Heavenly Father's unfailing love, of salvation through Jesus Christ, of our forgiveness of sins and everlasting life through Him. Sing praise!

**Think About It:** Let God's Word reform us. Ask the Lord, our Reformer God, for His help.

## Today's Prayers:



*Dear Heavenly Father, I pray that I would wake up and find myself loving You more every morning. Help me to draw close to You and to grow in Your likeness. In Jesus' name, Amen.*



Pray that more people would share Christ in schools and that the Good News would also be preached to working youths. Pray that the younger generations would seek the face of God.



Pray that we would continue to build ourselves strongly in the Word of God and that we would let Christ be the Cornerstone (the foundation) and we believers the living stones so that the Holy Spirit would dwell and work in us and the gates of hell and powers of darkness would not overpower us.





## Your Dream Vocation

(Ref Psalms 140:12–13; 143:8 & 145:21)

What do you want to be when you grow up? A doctor, lawyer or engineer? How about a teacher? It's not an easy job but this country needs Christian teachers. What about being a pastor in a very rural village? Malaysia needs willing, reformed brothers and sisters-in-Christ to dedicate themselves to the work of the Lord, especially in remote areas. Is it one of your dreams?

I have a friend whose young son dreamed of becoming a youth pastor. His life, which was not smooth and easy-going, taught him good lessons which helped him fulfil that dream.

In Psalm 140:12–13, psalmist David wrote, "I know the LORD secures justice for the poor and upholds the cause of the needy..." We often pray for help for the Orang Asli and Orang Asal. Many of them are poor and needy and unfairly treated. Are you willing to be the one the Lord uses to be their human help?

If you are, ask the Lord to teach you with the help of the Holy Scriptures and through the Holy Spirit, to live an upright life even while you are still young. Prepare yourself by learning Bahasa Malaysia (BM) well if you are not yet fluent before learning a tribal language and customs. Reform your prejudices against village people. Realize that God, who is rich in love will give you such a heart too. He loves the villagers just as much as He loves you. Knowing some first aid and the laws of the land could help you help them.

**Think About It:** What “dream vocation” can I use to serve the Lord? Prepare ahead.

**Prayer:** Ask the Lord to show you the way you should go to serve Him by serving His people.

## Today's Prayers:



*Dear Heavenly Father, show me how I can serve You through serving people around me. In Jesus' name, Amen.*



Many children are either too fat or too thin, with some wasting their food while others are suffering from hunger due to a lack of food. Both obesity and malnutrition are not good for children. Pray that the government and parents would find solutions for the nutrition and dietary problems faced by Malaysian children.



Pray that our pastors and leaders would pay careful attention to themselves and those of us under their care so that we would be alert and vigilant to resist the devil.





## DAY 23

# Praise the Lord

(Ref Psalms 148:13; 150:2)

Today we read the last few chapters of Psalms. The psalms are excellent for teaching us how to praise and adore the LORD for His omnipotence, omnipresence and omniscience (all-knowing); aspects of His character such as His faithfulness, righteousness, His wonderful gift of salvation, goodness, His magnificent creation and more.

When we look at God's marvellous creation, we can understand in some small ways that He is a million trillion times more wonderful. We can learn to know His heart a little bit more by thinking of all He has done. Let's praise Him like a psalmist.

Here's an example of how good it is to sing, pray and praise with the psalms. Open your Bibles to Psalms 146 to 150 and begin...

Heavenly Father, I praise You for Your gracious, unfailing compassionate love, and Your slowness to anger. All Your ways are righteous. My mouth will praise You and Your name for Your mercy endures forever. You are faithful so I put my hope in You.

You are the One and Only awesome, omnipotent Creator. When I see Your beautiful stars at night and the sea creatures in documentaries, I realize You are totally amazing because with just a few words, "Let there be light" and "Let the water teem with living creatures" (Genesis 1:14–16, 20), it happened! No one else can do that! Your "acts of power" and "surpassing greatness"

(Psalm 150:2) make me praise You, Father.

Praise the Lord! In Jesus' name, I praise and pray. Amen.

**Think About It:** Praise the Lord every day using the psalms to help you.

## Today's Prayers:



*Dear Heavenly Father, cultivate in me a habit of praising You daily in my life. I want to tell of Your wonders and worship You with joy. In Jesus' name, Amen.*



Children encountered many online scams especially during the pandemic lockdown when they must attend online classes and study. Pray that our parents and schools would give us safety guidelines so that they would not be cheated by scammers.



Pray that we would help one another to love and do good, and meet regularly to encourage one another after not meeting each other in church for such a long time.





# Tree of Life and Righteousness

(Ref Proverbs 6:23; 8:17; 11:10)

The book of Proverbs was mostly written by the wise King Solomon. He had asked God for wisdom and God had granted it. These wise writings are very good for us to know because they have the potential to reform our thoughts, dreams, actions and destination when we listen to the wisdom.

2 Corinthians 5:17 tells us, "...if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation..." God planted a new heart in us, to give us the ability to change and to improve ourselves. He wants us to produce good fruit for Him.

When we plant a papaya seed, we expect to get a papaya tree that gives us papaya fruit. It's like our new heart when planted with the Holy Spirit - God expects to see the fruit of the Spirit. Proverbs gives us so much advice on this.

Solomon used lots of antonyms or opposites to show us what happens when we do or do not have those qualities. Make some columns for them in your notebooks; for example: a column for wicked vs righteous; foolish vs wise; lazy sluggard vs diligent; lies and dishonesty vs truthful integrity, and so on. Under wicked people, note what Solomon said about them. Under the righteous people column, also make note of their actions. Do this for each one.

You can look for even more antonym pairs. I found about eighteen

in just today's reading. Review all and ask the Lord to help you grow a "tree of life and righteousness" within your spirit and soul. It is a wise thing to do.

**Think About It:** Make God's Word your lamp, light and the apple of your eye.

## Today's Prayers:



*Dear Heavenly Father, fill me with Your Spirit so that people around me would see the fruit of the Spirit in my life and praise You, and know that You are good. In Jesus' name, Amen!*



Some children live in extreme poverty because they come from poor families. Pray that our government and other groups of people would gather enough skills, money, teachers, and other resources to help poor children by giving them proper education, food, care and protection and so on.



Pray that we would let the Word of Christ dwell richly in us, that we would tell and correct one another, worship in one spirit and give thanks to God in our hearts.



**DAY 25**

## Give Me Your Heart

(Ref Proverbs 19:20; 23:19,22,26; 24:32)

For this 40-Day Fast & Pray, we are reading through the Proverbs as if we are charging along on a racehorse. Proverbs is so fully packed with wisdom, it would be advisable to reread through a chapter a day, or even just a few verses a day to think more about it later on.

Another way is to continue as suggested yesterday. Read through and look for antonym couplets like pride vs humility and then the next month for the poor vs rich and what each is like, and so on.

Why? It's because our reforming and refining is a process that takes time, effort and patience. As you read and think through each pair, see if or how it applies to yourself. This is how we can also grow closer to the Lord, getting to know His heart better and living to please Him.

Many of these Proverbs show a father giving instructions and teaching to his son (or daughters). They read, "Listen to advice and accept discipline..." (19:20); "Listen, my son and be wise..."; "Listen to your father..."; "My son give me your heart..." (23:19, 22, 26). The father really loves his child and wants him/her to be wise in life. Do you know what the son answered? "I applied my heart to what I observed and learned a lesson for what I saw." (Proverbs 24:32)

Dear wise young people, listen, observe, learn and do what's

pleasing in God's sight. The wise know it's important to give wise parents their hearts and to know theirs, and most importantly, to give their hearts to God and begin to know His.

**Think About It:** Will you be wise and willingly listen to your parents' advice and the guidance of God's Word?

## Today's Prayers:



*Dear Heavenly Father, I long to become wise and discerning (having good judgment) both in Your eyes and in the eyes of people around me. Help me to fear You because it is how I am going to grow to be smarter each day. In Jesus' name, Amen.*



Pray that children in Christian families would be trained in God's way like reading the Bible and praying with parents daily so that they would grow in the love and fear of God.



Pray that Christian uncles and aunties would be bold in sharing the Gospel with their families so that their households would worship Jesus as their Head and Lord.



GOD OUR REKINDLER

DAY  
26 - 30



GOD OUR REKINDLER



## DAY 26

# Rise Up and Praise Them

(Ref Proverbs 31:10-31)

Some boys and girls in primary school won't be thinking of boy-girl relationships yet. In fact, if you are a girl, you may be saying, "Yuck!" about boys and if you are a boy, "Eeek!" about girls. However, as you reach your teenage years, your opinions will likely change. This is when you must be extra careful to think and act wisely.

God's Word can help you because "...every word of God is flawless" (Proverbs 30:5). Listen to advice from your parents too. In Proverbs 31, a mother is telling her son Lemuel what to look for in a noble wife. You all are not too young to start thinking of these virtues.

The noble wife looks after her family well. She's an astute businesswoman, a great seamstress, cares for the poor and needy, her husband is well respected and so on. Such a woman of worth would only want a man of equal worth to be her husband. Her most important quality though is that she **"fears the Lord"**.

Second Corinthians 6:14 says, "Don't be yoked together with unbelievers". If you belong to Jesus then it's important to have a spouse who also belongs to Him. There are so many nice girls and boys who are non-Christians *BUT* if you wish to please the Lord, you will follow His will and ways. Ask Him to show you that one special person who is devoted to the Lord and living a God-honouring life. Wait for him or her. In the meantime, prepare

yourself and pray for your spouse-to-be, and become that man or woman whose children will rise up and praise.

**Think About It:** Will you patiently wait and pray for that noble wife/husband-to-be until God's timing is right to marry?

## Today's Prayers:



*Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for the future wife/husband that You have started preparing for me now. I pray that we will grow to be a blessing for each other, and for our family and communities as well. In Jesus' name, Amen.*



Pray that we would pay attention to our parents when they teach or instruct us with the Word of God at home so that we can be "young disciples" of Christ, and that we would behave how Jesus would have behaved in our family, school and community lives.



Pray that even though we are still very young, we would set it our life goal to make Christ known to our friends and people around us.





DAY 27

## The Lord Our Rekindler

(Ref Ecclesiastes 7:19; 12:13)

Young people, please add ‘rekindler’ to your BIG Word Dictionary. Google explained that a ‘rekindler’ is a person who relights a fire or revives something that was lost or lapsed so that he or she can stir up or renew that ‘thing’. The Lord is our Rekindler who can rekindle our love, hope and faith in Him!

Jesus Christ is the same always – yesterday, today and tomorrow. His love for us never fails. Our love for Him can be like a roller coaster with many ups and downs. We might even say to God, “I’m not going to befriend you anymore because you didn’t answer my prayer the way I wanted You to.” With that changing love, comes changing hope and faith because we use our ‘feelings’ instead of relying on facts about God and Jesus.

Remember all we’ve learned about God’s character, His omnipotence, faithfulness and so on. He NEVER changes and is good all the time. This is like an anchor on a ship that the captain puts down to steady it so that the ship doesn’t drift away. Jesus is the Anchor for our souls.

Whenever we realize we have drifted away from the Lord and the fire in our hearts is about to go out, know that wise people will let Him renew them. Like the song that goes, “It only takes a spark to get a fire going”, allow the fear of the Lord in our hearts to be that spark that rekindles our love, hope and faith in our Savior Jesus and our loving Heavenly Father.

**Think About It:** When you feel like you've drifted away, ask Jesus your Anchor and Rekindler to rekindle your heart for Him.

## Today's Prayers:



*Dear Heavenly Father, sometimes I feel that I am losing interest in You and Your Word. Please help rekindle my love for You so that I would love You no matter how I feel. In Jesus' name, Amen.*



Pray that we would take time to pray for ourselves, our families, studies, friends, and other important matters. Pray also that we would learn from our parents who teach us to live holy lives and get along well with others.



Pray that we would not be ashamed of the Gospel but would tell others about Jesus because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes.





## DAY 28

# Love Rekindled

(Ref Song of Songs 8:13; Isaiah 4:2,5)

Once upon a time, there were twelve tribes of Israel. They were the ones that God asked Moses to lead out of Egypt away from slavery, through the wilderness, and to the Promised Land. Joshua took over after Moses died and brought them into the land that became known as Israel. God told them to fear, love, worship and serve only Him, the one true God.

Unfortunately, they disobeyed so God allowed enemies to attack them and take the Israelites away, scattering them to the four winds and into slavery again! The tribe of Judah, the Levites who were priests, Benjamin and a couple of other tribes were left. Judah was the tribe from which Jesus came. These people are known as 'Jews'.

Very sadly, they turned away from God. God sent Isaiah to warn them that if they didn't repent, they would be taken away into captivity too. Sure enough, it happened. However, Isaiah had given them hope that there would be repentance and that they would one day return to Jerusalem. Once again, the LORD's presence would be beside, before, around, above and among them. Like the prodigal son, they would and eventually did, rekindle their hearts of love towards God.

There are times when we just go to church like it's a ritual or because they need a musician, worship leader, or helper in Sunday School though our hearts really don't want to be there.

Our love for the Lord has diminished. There is still hope for us, though, when we ask, seek, and knock until we find the Lord. You'll find His loving arms are still open to you like the prodigal son's dad were for him.

**Think About It:** The Lord loves you very much. Keep thinking about that.

## Today's Prayers:



*Dear Heavenly Father, help me to discover Your endless and unconditional love each day as I wake up each morning. I want to know You more and grow closer to You as I grow up. In Jesus' name, Amen.*



Pray that we would be serious when we attend Sunday school, and not use the time to play with friends, but to learn the Word of God, hear the heartbeat of Jesus through the lessons, find ways to help others and share Jesus with friends who might be having troubled hearts.



Pray that all believers of Christ in Malaysia would know how to answer when we are asked the reason why we put our hope in Jesus.





## DAY 29

# Hope Rekindled

(Ref Isaiah 7:14; 8:13; 10:1-2, 20; 11:12; 14:1, 30, 32)

Yesterday we read about the twelve tribes of Israel and how about ten of them got scattered throughout enemy territory and were forced into slavery again. They were known as the House of Israel. The other group, with a remnant of others, was known as the House of Judah. They were the ones left behind.

However, they turned from God to idols, made unfair laws that hurt and harmed the poor, needy, widows and fatherless children, stirring up God's wrath because of the wickedness. Cruel enemy nations attacked and took them away too as punishment. It was like Jesus chasing out the money changers from the Temple because they didn't respect His Father's house of prayer and were cheating the people.

Before these Jews were swept away, God had sent the prophet Isaiah to warn them of severe punishment to come but also that there will be hope. He told them a child, a son, would be given to bring light and His name is Immanuel - God with us. He would be a sanctuary for both houses and what's more, they would all be gathered up from those four winds and reassembled in their Promised Land, where they would settle on their own land! What a compassionate God of hope they had! We have Him now, too.

Young readers, we do have to suffer the consequences for our wrong doings, but Jesus is our Immanuel, and He is the One Who brings us salvation and forgiveness when we repent. That's a

whole bundle of hope! May you rekindle your hope in Christ alone.

**Think About It:** The Light of Jesus brings hope in our darkness.

## Today's Prayers:



*Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for giving me Jesus, Your only Son, because through Him, you have forgiven me for all the bad things I have done to You. I ask that Jesus would help me to be a better person. In Jesus' name, Amen.*



Pray that we would learn from our godly parents to fear God and to obey His instructions, by honouring them and helping them at home so that they feel our love for them.



Pray that we will bear good fruit with good attitudes and behaviour so that people would know that we are disciples of Jesus, giving glory to God our Father.





## DAY 30

# Faith Rekindled

(Ref Isaiah 18:4)

Remember Day 17 when we learned about God our Heavenly Judge who sits above watching like a human judge does from The Bench? In Isaiah 18:4 that you read today, God says, "I will remain quiet and will look on from my dwelling place." He was watching all the nations like Egypt, Babylon, Jerusalem and so on. He saw all the evil they were doing and knew they thought they could get away with it. However, some awful judgment and punishment were prophesied against them by Isaiah when they wouldn't repent.

It's similar for us nowadays too. We can choose to do whatever sin we want but we can't choose the consequences. The Bible says, "the wages of sin is death". Death and hell for all who do not repent and accept Jesus as Saviour. Sounds harsh but it's God's truth. The good news is, "The gift of God is eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 6:23).

If we are already a follower of Jesus Christ, we need to live a holy life, doing what's right in God's eyes. If we sin, we won't lose our salvation because **eternal** life lasts forever and ever. We just won't be very happy, and our faith will be weak until we repent and confess, and Jesus forgives (1 John 1:9).

Maybe we have gone away from Jesus for a while. Ask Him to rekindle your faith so that you will abide in Him. He will be with you until the end of the world (see Matthew 28:20).

**Think About It:** What can you do right now that would please the Lord Jesus?

## Today's Prayers:



*Dear Heavenly Father, teach me how to be good to all, how not to say hurtful or sarcastic words, and how to help friends when they are in need. In Jesus' name, Amen.*



Pray for more protection laws for children so that they can live in a safe environment free from any life-threatening situations.



Pray that all preachers would teach faithfully about the Word of God and that they would be patient and careful when correcting and encouraging their church members.



DAY  
31 - 35



## GOD OUR REVENGER



DAY 31

## Wait for God's Revenge

(Ref Isaiah 29:15; 31:5; 34:8)

There are so many bullies in the world you can't even count them but the one you happen to know is always the worst. Here's hoping you are not that bully. People who hurt and harm others behave very wrongly. Sometimes they will even harm you in secret and warn you not to tell anyone or they'll hurt you even more. Being mistreated like this is terrible and likely the victim will feel fear, shame and anger and want to hit back hard.

The Jews suffered from this experience in Jerusalem from the other nations. Those nations ganged up and said, "Who sees us?" They forgot God, the omniscient Judge, could. Did you know that the Lord has a day of vengeance planned? He had one for those bullying nations. He was the Jews' Avenger and now is ours.

An 'avenger' is someone who takes action to bring justice upon those who do wrong against others. (You can put that in your BIG word dictionary.) Those who suffer wrong do not have to plan wrong back.

Instead, God's word says to return good for evil; give kindness in return for meanness; do good for others when you can (Romans 12:17-21). Pray for those who sin against you that they will repent and turn to Jesus before it is too late. In your distress call out to the Lord for help and tell a trusted adult, whether a parent, pastor, policeman or a teacher about the wrong deeds. Pray that they will believe you.

**Think About It:** Pray for bullies that they would repent, seek the Lord and stop doing their wrong deeds.

## Today's Prayers:



*Dear Heavenly Father, please help the bullies in my school to realize that bullying is very wrong. Let the love of Jesus touch them. In Jesus' name, Amen.*



Gangsterism or bullying is quite common in schools and some children are afraid to go to school because of this. Pray that parents and schools would make a good effort to find the reasons behind it and deal with this problem properly.



Pray that the police and courts would carry out their duties properly so that the innocent would not be charged and the guilty would not go free.





## The Importance of Prayer

(Ref Isaiah 37:1; 6, 14; 39:3, 8)

Today's reading gives us a perfect example of big bullies and of what a victim can do and of how the Lord our Avenger God works to bring deliverance. The bullies were the Assyrian King Sennacherib, his field commander and his huge, powerful army. The victims were King Hezekiah and the House of Judah.

They were truly fearsome bullies because their boasts had a lot of truth to them. This king and army had conquered many nations already. They said their gods helped them and the God of Israel was weak and wouldn't help Judah. They were so proud and insulted God. That was their big mistake!

Twice, the field commander made fun of and challenged them with insults. Twice, King Hezekiah went to the temple to tell the LORD about it. He even brought the insulting letter and spread it out before the Lord. "Lord, look!" he cried out. "This bully is truly strong! You are stronger. We need Your help! Please deliver us!"

God sent the prophet Isaiah with the answer. God said, "I will deliver you because you prayed to me, you are My people, and my Name was insulted."

King Hezekiah and his army didn't even have to go out to battle. Their omnipotent God fought for them and changed the whole situation around. The enemy bullies left and had trouble of their own.

Young people, know the importance of prayer and ask the Lord for His intervention. Do what you can to protect yourself but do live under our Heavenly Father's divine protection. He is our Avenger and will take action, sometimes through other people like Isaiah to Hezekiah.

**Think About It:** When your bully situation looks hopeless, cry out to God your Avenger and tell a parent, pastor, teacher or someone you trust.

## Today's Prayers:



*Dear Heavenly Father, please help those who are bullied but keeping quiet because of fear, that they would share their situation with their parents or teachers and get help from them. In Jesus' name, Amen.*



Some children are forced to marry at a very young age, hence losing their opportunities to go to school. Some girls even die when they give birth. Pray that nobody would agree to child marriages and that God would help the underage girls who are married.



Pray that we will have the freedom to believe in what we believe and that we would not be disturbed by those who try to question us or stop us from believing in Jesus.



# Everlasting Salvation Springs Up

(Ref Isaiah 45:8; 53:3-12)

Groan! Not another history and geography lesson! Yup, sorry. Look at the ancient civilizations during the Bible times. Try to find these places on a map. The Assyrians were a prideful and powerful nation as were the Babylonians. They were from the general area called Mesopotamia. That's where Father Abraham had come from, where Jonah had to go to Nineveh, where Daniel was in the lions' den and most likely where the Garden of Eden had been. Today, this territory is known as Iraq, Syria and Turkey. Then, the people served idols and even made their kings and emperors 'gods'.

When the Babylonians conquered Judah, the Jews were brought to Babylon and forced to become slaves. Their masters were merciless even to the grandparents. Yet, God had allowed this because they'd stubbornly refused to obey Him, turned their backs on Him and worshipped other gods. However, because of the bad treatment, God later punished the Babylonians, no matter how strong they thought they were and brought the Jews back to Jerusalem with joy and gladness.

Since then and to this day there has not been lasting peace in Israel where a big number of Jews still live. Some day they will have everlasting salvation, joy and kindness (Romans 11:26) but we can have it now in our hearts because the Deliverer has come to help us (Romans 11:26).

Jesus was beaten and hung on the cross to die for my sins and

yours because He loves us. Whether we are Jewish, Tamil, members of a tribal community, Chinese or English speaking, we can accept Jesus as Saviour and have everlasting salvation, joy and kindness from Him. Jesus is never a bully. In fact, He suffered on our behalf because He is God's servant who saves God's people.

**Think About It:** If you have not yet done so, come to Jesus and accept Him as your personal Saviour today.

## Today's Prayers:



*Dear Heavenly Father, I pray for my friends who have yet to know Jesus Your Son personally. Show them Your love in a way that they can understand and feel. In Jesus' name, Amen.*



Pray that immigrant children would not become prostitutes because they need to earn money to support their families and that God would provide a way for them.



Pray that all fathers in families would spend time and energy to guide their families in worshipping and serving God so that families can grow together in Christ.



**DAY 34**

# True Fasting

(Ref Isaiah 58:6-11)

Hello, everyone! On Day 32 we talked about the importance of prayer and since this is a 40-Day Fast & Pray Devotion, we should also mention fasting. True fasting, by God's definition, as written down by Isaiah in chapter 58 and verses 6-11, is amazing. After you read those verses, please answer the following question.

Is not eating food or drinking water for a month true fasting if you are always arguing with and hurting other people? I think we all know the answer is, 'NO!' According to Isaiah's record, true fasting is helping people who are oppressed and being treated unjustly, sharing food and shelter with the hungry and poor and giving clothes to those who need them. Doesn't this sound much better?!

There was a missionary lady named Amy Carmichael who left her home in Ireland to go to India. She knew how to do true fasting. Do look her up and watch a documentary of her life. In India, she cared for hundreds of orphans who had been hungry and oppressed, slaves to wicked people. Amy, whom they called, "Amma," gave them tender loving care and their freedom. She put her faith in our Avenger God and He helped her in huge ways to help these children.

Eventually, she built an orphanage, a school, a hospital and a church. She even managed to have unjust laws about girls in India changed! From 1901 until today, even though Amma is with

Jesus, some of those children grew up and their children and grandchildren have carried this torch for Jesus. Praise the Lord! Let's all learn to do this kind of true fasting.

**Think About It:** Together with your parents or church, think of ways you can do true fasting.

## Today's Prayers:



*Dear Heavenly Father, help me to understand the meaning of true fasting so that I would not just follow blindly but would obey Your Word with a genuine heart and truly fast by helping those in need and those who cannot help themselves. In Jesus' name, Amen.*



Pray for those children who are badly beaten or abused by their parents, caretakers, or other family members, that they could receive help and be rescued.



Pray that we would grow to be godly leaders in the future, leading our families, churches, companies, and so on. in the ways of God and helping to enlarge God's Kingdom.



**DAY 35****Umbrella of Divine Protection**

(Ref Jeremiah 3:21' 4:7-8, 14 &amp; 7:3)

Let me tell you a secret. When I was young and did something wrong, my mother would explain what I'd done wrongly and what I needed to do to behave properly instead. Sometimes she even quoted Bible verses to tell me what to do that would please Jesus. Of course, there were punishments because when we do wrong, there are consequences. When the consequence time was over, then Mum would often restate everything again and pray for and hug me, restoring the relationship.

During today's reading, we began reading the book of Jeremiah. Jeremiah was a prophet of God sent to His children of Judah to tell them the terrible wrongs and evils they had been doing. Jeremiah warned and warned them that they would be severely punished if they did not listen and repent. Due to their stubbornness, rebellion and disobedience, the consequences were that their homes and temple were destroyed, and they were carried off, far, far from home to live for 70 years in enemy territory.

Young people, know that when our parents teach and discipline, they mostly do so out of loving care for us, praying we go in the way we should. God our Heavenly Father works the same way, and He is the One to put our parents over us like an umbrella protecting us from the rain or hot sun. This is the Lord's divine protection we need.

**Think About It:** Think of good ways you can be obedient to your parents and to please Jesus and then do them.

## Today's Prayers:



*Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for giving us parents from whom we learn how to be obedient. Help me to obey and not rebel against them whenever they tell me to behave. In Jesus' name, Amen.*



Our country does not have enough people who know how to look after autistic children. Pray for more people to be trained and centres to be set up to help train these children and that their parents or caretakers would not give up but grow stronger and wiser in nurturing their autistic kids.



Pray that Christians in Malaysia would be renewed in spirit and experience God in a wonderful way so that our lives would be changed and we would be wise in everything we do in the future.



DAY

36 - 40



**GOD OUR RESTORER**



## DAY 36

# Jesus the Restorer

(Ref Jeremiah 12:14-16; 15:19; 18:8)

The old post office in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah is one of three buildings that didn't get bombed to ruins during WWII. Over the years it got so run down that it needed to be restored to its original condition. An engineering company got busy and made it safe and look spiffy once again. If you come to Sabah, you can visit this 106-year-old place as it is now the Sabah Tourism Board HQ.

Add 'restorer' to your BIG word dictionary, saying it's someone or something that returns a person or thing to its previous condition. This is what the prophet Jeremiah wanted God to do for the people of Judah.

Even though the two Houses - of Israel and Judah - were separated, God saw them as one, calling them the children of Israel or just Israel. We know from the Bible that someday He will restore all the 12 tribes as one big group of God's people.

We often need restoring. When we accept Jesus as our Saviour, our body becomes the temple of the Holy Spirit. When we sin, it affects our body and it's like we are breaking down the temple. There are consequences for our sins but when we repent and seek the Lord, Jesus the Restorer will forgive and help us to rebuild the relationship with Him and His temple. If we keep sinning stubbornly and do not allow Jesus to restore us, our relationship with Him will not be very happy and our lives and temples may come to ruin as a result.

If that happens, it may take painful consequences similar to Israel and Judah's to restore the person. However, when we repent and Jesus restores us through the refining and reforming processes as learned on Days 16-20 and 26-30, we will be able to sing praises and worship Him from restored hearts.

**Think About It:** Let your temple be restored by our loving Restorer, Jesus.

## Today's Prayers:



*Dear heavenly Father, every day I want to come before You and be honest with You about how I have faced the day. I don't want to keep any offences or anger before the sun sets. Restore my relationship with You and with others every time I come and confess to You. In Jesus' name, Amen.*



Pray that children who spend most of their time in schools, tuition centres or day-care centres would have a closer relationship with their working parents and that they would be able to spend more time doing things together as a family.



Pray that our churches would help people in our neighbourhood and that we can bring the Good News to those who live nearby.



## DAY 37

# A Heart to Know Him

(Ref Jeremiah 24:4-7; 27:22)

Thinking about the verses in Jeremiah indicated above, my heart was touched and I felt like crying even while my heart found joy. You see, we have been reading through Isaiah and now Jeremiah and discovering all the horrible things that were predicted. God had told both prophets these terrifying things would happen to hurt and humiliate both the Houses of Israel and Judah because they had turned their hearts away from God.

Even though there was all that punishment, the compassionate Lord God of Israel told Jeremiah that He, their omnipresent Restorer would “watch over them for their good” and “bring them back” to their Promised Land (vs 6). Then He would “build them up and...plant them” there (vs 6). Furthermore, He would “give them a heart to know Him” and that He “is the LORD” (vs 7). Do you know why? It’s because they would have learned their lesson and would return to the Lord “with *all* their heart” (v7).

This really happened. Recall Days 1-3 with Ezra and Nehemiah rebuilding the Temple and the Wall of Jerusalem. God had kept His promises.

This brings me joy.

Do you want to know God with all your heart? If your answer is, “Yes!” know that the Lord will restore the heart He gave you when you accepted Jesus as Saviour. He is watching over us for our

good - not to harm but to bring renewal and restoration into our lives and hearts. The promises of God are always good.

**Think About It:** We can seek the Lord with all our heart and get to know His.

## Today's Prayers:



*Dear heavenly Father, by nature I may want to learn many new things in the world, but please give me a heart that desires to know You more. Help me to stay awake when I read the Bible and pay attention when someone shares the Word of God with me. In Jesus' name, Amen.*



Young children are being kidnapped everywhere and our government has passed a new law to help solve the problem. Pray that our parents, police, teachers, uncles and aunties who live near us would help to keep us safe and that the kidnappers would repent and stop kidnapping children.



Pray that even with the many problems found in our country, like floods, Covid-19, jobless people and expensive food, God would help Christians overcome their problems so that they can continue to share what they have with others and tell them about the love of God.



## DAY 38

### Show & Tell

(Ref Jeremiah 32:14-15, 43)

Show and Tell Day at school can be fun and interesting, don't you think? Did you know that God got Prophet Jeremiah to do a show and tell demonstration for the people of Judah?

God told Jeremiah to go and buy his cousin's field. He did so in front of many people where they could all see and hear what was going on. Then he put all the documents that showed the field now belonged to him into a clay jar so they would last a long time - like for 70 years.

It was a bit silly for Jeremiah to buy the land if all that was going to be ruined by the Babylonians but you see - God is gracious! He wanted the Jews to know, that even though awful disasters were coming and they would be taken away to Babylon, he would bring them back and restore their fortunes. Also, they would be able to buy land again and there would be joy and gladness because of their repentance.

There could be times in our lives when we don't listen to the Lord, and we suffer the consequences. However, when we repent, the Lord will restore us, and we will have joy and gladness. In this, we can learn the heart of our Saviour who loves us and readily restores our relationship with Him when we repent.

Give thanks in singing to the Lord who is good, whose love endures forever.

**Think About It:** Show and tell the good things the Lord does in your hearts when you repent and He restores.

## Today's Prayers:



*Dear heavenly Father, use me to show and tell others about You in small and creative ways. Help me to be a good storyteller so that people would be touched by those stories. In Jesus' name, Amen.*



More and more Malay and Indian children are attending Chinese primary schools. Pray that as Malaysian children mix together from a young age, they would learn not just another language but also to love and accept friends who come from different cultures.



Pray that we would learn to see things and understand events with what the Bible tells us so that we can share with our friends who have wrong thoughts and have done wrong things.





## DAY 39

# Favour with God and Men

(Ref Jeremiah 40:3-5)

"Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and men" (Luke 2:52 NIV). Our parents and our Heavenly Father God love to see us grow both physically and spiritually and to know God and His heart using our *willing* hearts to do so.

The prophet Jeremiah was like this, as was Baruch. Baruch was the scribe who wrote everything down that God told Jeremiah to say. God could rely on both of them. They had His favour.

However, they didn't seem to have favour with men. The people hated the message Jeremiah preached. It made them angry and want to kill him for speaking the truth about all the coming disasters. They put him into a dungeon for a long time, another time into a well where he sank into the mud, and later he was chained in a courtyard like a dog. All this for faithfully speaking the truth for 40 years.

In the end, his patient endurance was recognized by the enemy commander! "Jeremiah," he said, "because you predicted all those things, you can choose to stay here with your people or come to Babylon and I'll look after you!"

Jeremiah stayed in Judah but the commander gave him food and presents. He'd found favour with man as did Baruch who was able to escape with his life.

Even though we live godly lives, we will still have trouble. We will certainly have favour with God but not always with men. Still, we need to be faithful to our Restorer God who loves us.

**Think About It:** Grow in wisdom and stature for the Lord.

## Today's Prayers:



*Dear heavenly Father, Your Word says that You will make my enemies my friends if I am right with You. Help me to live right for You so that I would gain as many friends as possible in my lifetime and lead them to know Your Son. In Jesus' name, Amen.*



Pray that the health of school children would be protected during this pandemic and that they would not suffer from any side effects if they do get infected.



Pray that people in Malaysia would be saved as they come to know Jesus and that Christians would reach out to their neighbours.





## DAY 40

# Laments & Praise

(Ref Lamentations 5:21)

*PHEW!* We've reached Day 40! Here's one last word for your BIG word dictionary: 'Lamentations', which means 'funeral songs'. When you read the book of Lamentations, whose author is probably the prophet Jeremiah, we can see how he grieved and mourned as if someone had passed away. He cried and cried with lament because Jerusalem and the Temple were destroyed and God's chosen people who were supposed to worship Him and to know Him with all their hearts, souls and minds, wouldn't.

If any one of us turns away from the Lord and life seems worthless, know that we can lament repentantly and find a tune for this prayer, *"Restore us to yourself, O LORD, that we may return; renew our days..."*. The Lord hears our every cry.

Turn and turn and turn your heart *towards* Jesus, our Saviour and Restorer. May the truth of God's Word be like a fruitful tree planted and rooted in us so we will know Jesus who died for us. Then we can *think* more like Christ, *become* more Christ-like, and serve and worship Him only. Jesus is alive, full of love, compassion and goodness, and can renew and restore us when we are willing. May our lives become a continual song of joy and gladness from hearts full of praise because we have hearts that know Him more and realize our worth is found in Him, as His precious sons or daughters.

**Think About It:** Remember to thank Jesus every day because it is in Him whom we can put our hope (Romans 15:13).

## Today's Prayers:



Dear heavenly Father, thank you for always allowing me to make mistakes and letting me return to You each time because of your patience and loving kindness. Restore my love, hope and faith in You. In Jesus' name, Amen.



Pray for children in broken families, that they would receive warmth, comfort, strength and healing from God and that their needs would be met.



Pray that the small number of Christians in Kedah, Perlis, Kelantan and Terengganu would be strong and not be discouraged when they face difficulties and that they will be a light in the darkness.







## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Writer : Eunice R. Chin

Editor : Flora Tan

Proof-reader : Joycelyn Ong

Designer : Hody Beh

Advisor : NECF Prayer Commission

Printer : Akitiara Corporation Sdn. Bhd.

## Support NECF's General Fund

National Evangelical Christian Fellowship AC3

Public Bank Berhad Account No:

3218284529

or

Touch' n GO e-wallet

Scan the QR code to contribute:



National Evangelical Christian Fellowship (NECF) Malaysia

32, Jalan SS2/103, 47300 Petaling Jaya,  
Selangor Darul Ehsan,  
MALAYSIA.

Tel: +603-7727 8227 | Fax: +603-7729 1139

Email: [enquiries@necf.org.my](mailto:enquiries@necf.org.my)  
Website: [www.necf.org.my](http://www.necf.org.my)