

Be Still

AND KNOW THAT I AM GOD.

Psalm 46:10

4

DAYS

FAST & PRAYER

7 AUGUST - 15 SEPTEMBER 2021



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MALAYSIA

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Be Still And Know God

(Foreword By The Editorial Team)

Shalom, everybody!

Great to have you on board for 40-Day Fast and Prayer 2021!

It has been like riding on a roller coaster for everybody this past year. You will have experienced something that you never experienced before in life, like wearing masks everywhere you go, checking your temperature before you enter a place, joining online classes with your classmates and saying “hello” to each other through the cold screens, and worshipping God and attending Sunday School via zoom or Youtube. Some of you might have been so happy or were you more annoyed (oops!) because your parents have been around you 24 hours a day for months?

What will happen next is unknown to all of us as the situation can turn out to be better or worse. However, we must have learnt to trust in God in the last one and a half years, haven't we? We are going to need to learn to trust Him more, knowing that the days ahead may be even more challenging.

Now, how can we trust God in all situations, and have a trust that will last a lifetime? We are so young, and we are likely to have another 60, 70 or 80 more years of life on this scary earth. Something like Covid-19 has already caused us many problems, fears, and troubles, what if other worse things come?

Jesus said to His troubled disciples in John 14:27, *“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.”* Yes, God has given us the Holy Spirit who utters peace into our hearts in times of trouble. He had also said to those fearful people of God who were threatened by the Babylonian army who came to Jerusalem, *“Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations. I will be exalted in the earth!”* (Psalm 46:10)

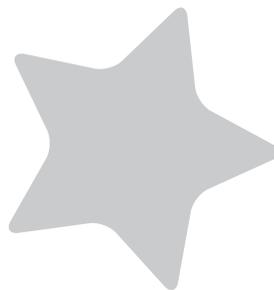
The secret of breaking free from fears and anxieties is to know God. Storms in life can be calmed down by His Word and work! Don't let your hearts and minds be occupied by the problems but be occupied by God and His wonderful divine character instead.

Let these 40 days be another season you train yourself to come before God, to know Him more by reading 10 chapters a day (as shown in the daily devotion) and by meditating on the Word of God and the devotion. (Yes! You have to read the scripture in order to better understand what is said in the devotion!) And you can pray to God by following the prayer points given to you daily in this booklet.

Of course, you can choose to fast by abstaining from a meal or a certain food you like, or from a game you are crazy about, etc. Set aside an hour (or half an hour if you can't afford an hour) per day to seek God together with kids all over the nation!

Let's get started on a journey to knowing God and be still before Him!





Section 1

Come

Day 1: Come To Jesus, The Word Of God

Day 2: Come And Follow Him

Day 3: Come And Live In His Promises

Day 4: Come To Divine Rest

Day 5: Come And Behold The Works Of God

Bible Reading: Genesis 1-50



Day

1

Come To Jesus, The Word Of God

Do you remember the story of how the world was created?

The Bible tells us that in the beginning, the earth was empty and without form, and basically had nothing! Darkness covered over the surfaces of the seas and waters that covered the whole earth!

Nothing. Darkness. No form. Can you imagine what it must have been like?

Then God spoke. Words came out from His mouth, and everything came into being.

First was the “light” that made the first “day”! Wow! The Word of God brought forth light unto the darkness! It’s that same “Light” that we read about in the Gospel of John, and He had also come into a world of darkness!

Following the light, came other basic elements for living things to grow. The sky appeared; the earth came about; the waters were kept within their boundaries; the

plants blossomed; the sun rose; and so on.

From nothing at all, the world came into good order. Everything was in place. After that, all the living beings began to multiply!

Jesus is the Light of the world, and He is the Word and the Life. Isn’t that interesting? The Word. The Light. The Life. It is the Word that gives Light, and it is the Light that sustains life.

Hold on a second! The sun came into existence only on day 4, right? It came after plants had started springing up on the earth on day 3. This tells us something very important: it is not the sun that is the source of light and life, but the Word of God.

Here we are inviting you to “come” and be still and know Him more through His living Word!

Think about it:

Will you respond to this invitation?

Today's Prayers:

- Pray that, as we start this 40-Day fast and prayer for the nation, we will be still and come to know God better; and that we will be touched by His love and grow in our love for others.
- Pray that churches and Christians in Malaysia will encounter God more in these stressful and difficult times, and that they will send out this invitation to people around them too.
- Pray that the children of Orang Asli and Orang Asal will receive equal rights like every other Malaysian, and that they will not become cheap labour, used unfairly by others.

Day

2

Come And Follow Him

When God called to Abram (or Abraham), “Come and follow me,” He didn’t call him to stay where he was and continue to live how he had been living. No. God led him to where He wanted him to be; from Ur to Haran, and from Haran to Canaan.

Abraham had settled with his family and father, Terah, in Haran for quite a few years. Haran became his second hometown after he left his birthplace, Ur. When Abraham asked his old servant to look for a wife for Isaac, his son, he didn’t ask him to go to Ur, but instead to Haran. Therefore, we can conclude that after Abraham and his family had settled in Haran, their relatives also came to stay with them, and grew to become a big and rich clan.

Then, God called Abraham to leave Haran, his father’s house, and follow Him to Canaan. Where was Canaan? There was

no Google available then, and Abraham couldn’t search online to get some information. So basically, he didn’t know where it was, what it looked like, nor what it was all about.

For sure, he didn’t know how long the journey would take him. If they went the wrong way, they didn’t have cars, trains or airplanes to take them back right away. It was a journey of no return. If they missed their relatives, they didn’t have smartphones to call each other. Setting out to Canaan was basically a bold step, a step of faith, of trust and of obedience to God.

Think about it:

What old or bad habits has God called you to leave and repent of, and to come before Him and follow Him instead?

Today’s Prayers:

- Pray that we will have simple faith like Abraham, and that we will obey and respond to God by leaving those bad habits that He tells us to “leave” and go after those good habits that He encourages us to work on.
- Pray that our parents, pastors and teachers, and so on will hear from God clearly and that they will be able to lead us in God’s direction by doing God’s will and pleasing Him.
- Pray for the Orang Asli and Orang Asal who are forced to leave their hometowns and move to places they are not familiar with, that they will find good ways to settle themselves and will continue to have enough to feed their families.

Day

3

Come And Live In His Promises

Isaac was the child that God promised for Abraham. God had told him that He would make him a great nation through this son.

Though he was already 75 years old, Abraham had to wait 25 more years for this promised birth to happen!

He might have thought that Lot his nephew, or Eliezer his old servant, or Ishmael his eldest son by a servant woman would be his successor. Isaac was born only after Abraham had used all his own human ways to have a son and had lost complete confidence in his own body, which was by then 100 years old, and therefore much too old to have any children.

Isaac's story was short and sweet. Unlike Abraham his father, and Jacob his son, Isaac never struggled with God. Abraham spent 25 years playing a guessing game with God. Jacob fought all the way to be number one in his family. Isaac was so different: he was like an innocent boy sitting quietly, waiting for his turn to receive God's prizes.

He didn't run away when his old father tied him up and tried to offer him as a burnt sacrifice at Mount Moriah though, as a grown boy, he could easily have done so. He didn't try to guess for years who his wife would be; he just happily took Rebekah into his camp after seeing her. He didn't fight with the Philistines who occupied his wells, he just dug another one.

Isaac was rich, very rich. God blessed him with great wealth. Even so, this rich man married only one wife.

Can you see that Isaac never fought for his rights? He took whatever was given to him and lived with contentment under the promises of God.

Think about it:

Can we have that kind of quietness in God and trust His promises in our lives?

Today's Prayers:

- Pray that we will be like Isaac in that we will never fight with others but pray to God in all circumstances and always keep a sweet and gentle spirit.
- Pray that churches and Christians will come to know that we are the promised children of God, and that we will walk in the Spirit and trust in God to handle the bad times in our nation.
- Pray that the old road problems in the Orang Asli and Orang Asal's villages will soon be made right through the government by God's intervention.

Day

4

Come To Divine Rest

Jacob's name has a funny meaning: "holder of the heel."

It doesn't sound good at all. He got his name because he was found holding the heel of Esau, his twin brother, at birth. It looked like baby Jacob was trying to stop his big brother from coming out before him!

Somehow, Jacob had a strong desire to be the number one child in his family as first-born Israelite boys always get a double portion of the family's inheritance.

So, Jacob tempted Esau to sell off his birth right in return for a bowl of hot red stew. Esau was too hungry to resist it. Arrgh! Esau must have been crazy about the color red! Indeed, he came out red when he was born!

Another time, dressed in Esau's clothes, Jacob cooked delicious food and served it to his father. In this way, he cheated his almost-blind father, Isaac, into giving him

the firstborn blessing. Later, he ran away from Esau's anger and went to serve his uncle, Laban, for 20 years. He suffered greatly under the hot sun and cold wind, and never got a good night's sleep. Laban changed his wages ten times.

When Jacob left Laban to go back to his homeland, he tried to please Esau with many good gifts. On the way, he wrestled with the angel of the Lord to get his blessing and was injured and had his name changed to Israel, the prince of God. After that, Jacob ceased his struggles with God.

Though it had been foretold that he would be stronger than Esau, Jacob still wasted years trying to get what God had already prepared for him. In the end, he only spoiled his relationship with his family!

Think about it:

Did Jacob ever enjoy divine rest and peace when he struggled with God and men?

Today's Prayers:

- Every one of us is created uniquely and God has a plan for each and every one of us. Pray that we will be happy about who we are, and that we will not try to be another person with our own ways.
- Pray that those who are yet to know Jesus Christ will not struggle alone with their own problems, but that they will come to know Jesus Christ and find good rest in Him.
- Pray that more people in healthcare will help the Orang Asli and Orang Asal who live in places where there are no nearby hospitals or clinics.

Day

5

Come And Behold The Works Of God

Joseph was sold to Egypt by his own brothers who hated him because he was the apple of his father's eye. Jacob, their father, gave all the best things to Joseph, and that really made his siblings jealous.

Never did they realise they had done Joseph a favour and lent God a hand by selling Joseph away. Joseph wasn't aware then, that it was God's plan so that he could save not just the Israelites, but also the Egyptians and people of other nations during the famine.

Imagine poor young Joseph finding himself alone in a foreign land. He must have cried day and night. He had to serve as a lowly servant in Potiphar's house before he got promoted as a supervisor. His good days didn't last long; Potiphar threw him into prison because Potiphar's wife accused him of disturbing her.

It seemed that God had forgotten Joseph because the cupbearer who was supposed to tell Pharaoh about him did not do so and left him behind bars for years. When the chance came for Joseph to tell Pharaoh the meaning of his dreams, he gave credit to God. His wisdom surprised Pharaoh who made him the prime minister of Egypt.

Joseph rose from being a prisoner to becoming the second most important man in Egypt. WOO-HOO! That was a miracle! Only God could do that! Joseph knew that God had a good purpose for allowing bad things to happen to him. Hence, he told his guilty brothers that God's intention was good even though theirs was wrong.

Think about it:

Is there "bad luck" or misfortune in the lives of God's people? Are you able to see God's good intention in every "lousy" moment?

Today's Prayers:

- Pray that we will learn to praise God all the time, whether we are in good or bad moments, and know that God has a good purpose for us even if we don't see Him helping us in times of need and trouble.
- Pray for more Spirit-filled leaders to take important roles in all organizations, including the government and churches, that they will work and serve with the wisdom of God to bring blessings to all.
- Pray for more low-cost housing to be built to help meet the needs of the Orang Asli and Orang Asal.

Section 2

Repentance

Day 6: The Unrepentant Pharaoh

Day 7: True Repentance

Day 8: Repentance And God-Centredness

Day 9: Repentance And Obedience

Day 10: Repentance And Holiness

Bible Reading: Exodus 1-40 & Leviticus 1-10



Day

6

The Unrepentant Pharaoh

Pharaoh's story with God tells us how stubborn a man or a woman can be when it comes to the issue of repentance.

He had altogether eleven chances of listening to Moses, i.e., letting God's people go. Yet, he rejected them all, making his heart hardened until there was no way for him to return.

Maybe his first disobedience was excusable, because he really didn't know who this God was. God had been silent for 430 years, and even the Israelites had forgotten Him.

Was this really the case? Yes! God did introduce Himself to Moses as the God of Moses' father, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. After Jacob, most of the Israelites didn't have a personal relationship with God!

Hence, Pharaoh answered Moses impatiently, *"Who is the Lord that I should obey his voice and let Israel go? I don't know the Lord!"*

Now, it may be excusable for us if we disobey God the first time, but not so when we are reminded again and again, like in Pharaoh's case.

Moses turned his staff into a snake. Then he turned the Nile River and all the waters in Egypt into blood. Then he made the frogs cover the land of Egypt, even up into their beds and their kitchens. Pharaoh became anxious when the frogs Moses and his magicians called out did not return to the waters.

However, he refused to listen to Moses each time after the problem was solved - until the last plague when his first-born son was killed. Even after that, he still pursued the Israelites to the Red Sea and was finally drowned there with his entire army.

Think about it:

What causes us to be stubborn and unrepentant? Is it our pride and arrogance?

Today's Prayers:

- Pray that we will be quick to repent whenever God reminds us, whether through His living Word, the still voice of the Holy Spirit, or warnings given by parents, teachers or friends.
- Pray that as many people are facing different problems at this difficult time, that their hearts will be soft and responsive to God and His Good News and that they will have hearts that are sensitive to His voice.
- Pray that the government will work quickly to solve the environmental pollution issues that threaten the health and safety of many Orang Asli and Orang Asal villagers.

Day

7

True Repentance

Repentance means “returning” in Hebrew, and “turning around” or “changing of mind” in Greek. It tells us something happens both in someone’s mind and behaviour when he/she repents.

When God called the Israelites to return to Him as a holy, priesthood nation, He gave them the Ten Commandments. Out of the Ten Commandments, nine had to do with “no, no” situations. The Israelites were told not to do certain things to God and their neighbours.

No other gods; no idols; no misuse of God’s name; no working on the Sabbath; no killing; no adultery; no stealing; no false testimony; no greed over others’ possessions.

All these *no* instructions dealt with thoughts and behaviours that were practiced commonly among them. They worshiped the Egyptian gods. They made their golden calf. They swore by many gods’ names.

They worked endlessly without holiday under Pharaoh. They fought and killed. They had improper relationships outside their marriages. They stole and lied and desired to have things others had.

For them to repent, they had to first change their mind about the way they looked at all these things, and then change their behaviour accordingly.

They had to let go of all other gods and worship the God of Israel only. They had to rest on the Sabbath, their Holy Day. They had to love their neighbours, by speaking the truth and taking care of others and their things like how they would take care of themselves and their belongings.

Think about it:

How can we prove that we have true repentance?

Today’s Prayers:

- Pray that our thoughts and our behaviour will agree with what we have believed and shared. Ask the Holy Spirit to tell us areas where we need to repent and start thinking and behaving in His ways.
- Pray that churches in Malaysia will be the city on the hill where their good behavior will shine brightly in their communities so that God will receive all the glory and praise.
- Pray that electricity will be supplied to all the Orang Asli and Orang Asal villages that do not have supply yet so that their living conditions can be improved.

Day

8

Repentance And God-Centredness

The Ten Commandments were given to the Israelites to help them do right in God's eyes and to one another. God also gave them detailed instructions to build His Tabernacle.

Physically, the Tabernacle was the centre of the Israelite community. In Numbers, we were told that the twelve tribes were camped around its four sides: to the North was the camp of Dan with Asher and Naphtali; to the South was the camp of Reuben with Simeon and Gad; to the West was the camp of Ephraim with Manasseh and Benjamin; and to the East was the camp of Judah with Issachar and Zebulun. The Levites surrounded the Tabernacle in the inner circle, with Merari at the North, Kohath at the South, Gershon at the West and Moses and the priests at the East.

Can you draw out a map then with this description? Maybe you can look it up on a

map at the back of your Bible or find a copy online to help you.

Every day, as the Israelites came out of their tents when they got up in the morning, they faced the Tabernacle where God's Ark of Covenant was placed, and where His pillar of cloud and fire rested upon.

There was basically nothing to see in the wilderness, and the Tabernacle was the centre of everything. The main jobs of the Israelites during those 40 years were to build the Tabernacle, to move their camps under the leading of the pillars of cloud and fire, hear the Word of God, and offer sacrifices. It was all about God and His laws and instructions.

Think about it:

To God, a life of repentance is centred around Him. Is God your centre of worship now?

Today's Prayers:

- Invite God to be the centre of your life now. Let your heart be open to Him and pray that you will have a daily encounter with Him so that you will not do anything wrong against Him.
- Pray that churches in Malaysia will make God the centre of their worship, that they will connect and relate to one another as a Body of Christ and live under the blessings of perfect unity.
- Pray that Jakoa, the Department that looks into the business of the Orang Asli, will really take care of their immediate needs and ongoing welfare.

Day

9

Repentance And Obedience

When God instructed the Israelites to build the Tabernacle, He didn't leave them alone to imagine how it should be built, and what it should be used for. He gave them very specific details.

Like, who were the craftsmen, what wood should be used, the length and width of each item, what to be put inside the Tabernacle and where to put them, and who would take care of them, etc. He wanted them to build something that would reflect His design, purpose, usage and glory, exactly.

After we had said our sinners' prayers, God didn't leave us alone to handle our own lives with our own ways. He gave us the Bible so that we will know how to live properly, how to relate with Him and others, what attitudes we should have, and what character we need to cultivate, etc.

Were you surprised to see Moses remembering every single detail that God mentioned? He wasn't an engineer, though as a prince of Egypt, he might have seen great building projects before. Yet that was some 40 years beforehand and for the last 40 years, he had been tending his father-in-law's sheep in the wilderness! He remembered them because he took God's instructions seriously!

We can't say we have truly repented when we refuse to follow God's general or specific instructions for us. Moses knew that the secret of following God was to listen carefully to every word that He spoke, and that should be our attitude too.

Think about it:

Is there any area in your life where you know you need to be obedient to God's instructions?

Today's Prayers:

- Pray that we will seek God's direction and instruction in every important decision in our lives so that we will walk under God's protection and blessings.
- Pray that pastors and leaders who lead different churches in Malaysia will make disciples for Jesus Christ and build them up in the ways of God.
- Pray that there will be a breakthrough in the relationship among all Orang Asli and Orang Asal so that every tribe can be at peace and relate well with each other.

Day

10

Repentance And Holiness

Leviticus 1-10 are long passages talking about the sacrificial and offering systems of the Israelites and the high priests who helped make sacrifices and offerings before God.

The Tabernacle was physically the centre of the Israelite community, and it represented God's presence in their midst. With the setting up of the sacrificial system, the Tabernacle then became a very busy place with many activities going on daily.

There are altogether five offerings mentioned in Leviticus 1-5 that helped remind the Israelites of the importance of keeping a right relationship with God and others. They were aware of their need to live in the holiness of God.

The system also taught them a valuable lesson - that sin cost them a heavy price which they had to pay with their own livestock or produce so that they could either please God, appreciate Him, or ask for His forgiveness over their trespasses.

The Israelites relied on their livestock and produce for their living, and by offering animals, they would have lost their overall profit from sales of their extra animals, vegetables, eggs or grain (wheat, barley, and so on). Since they lived in a community, their loss would automatically affect others too!

Actually, it cost them more than just animals - it also cost them their sense of dignity! Can you imagine how embarrassing and shameful it must have been to bring one's animals and walk before the very eyes of one's neighbours? Everybody would be guessing what kind of sin he had committed against God or someone else!

Hence, the sacrificial and offering system played a role in disciplining them and keeping them away from sin and unholiness!

Think about it:

What are the ways that help keep us away from sin and unholiness now?

Today's Prayers:

- Pray that we will set our mind and heart to live a holy life because, without holiness, nobody will see God.
- Pray that churches in Malaysia will support one another wherever they are, so that every house of God will lack nothing physically and spiritually.
- Pray that all the ministry work done among Orang Asli and Orang Asal groups will bear fruit and that their young people and future generations will be blessed greatly by the work of the Gospel.



**Section
3**

Knowing God: Knowing Who God is

Day 11: God Is Holy And We Must Be Holy

Day 12: God Is Mysterious But He Is Able To Be Understood

Day 13: God Is Personal To Every One Of Us

Day 14: God Never Changes

Day 15: God Is Living

Bible Reading: Leviticus 11-27; Numbers 1-33



Day

11

God Is Holy And We Must Be Holy

When you read through Leviticus 11-20, you will probably be surprised at how meticulous God was in listing down all the items that the Israelites were supposed to be aware of.

Such regulations as, from the food they ate, to the house they lived in, the clothes they wore, the skin diseases they suffered from, the confinement period, and the relationship one had with his parents, relatives, and community, etc.

You see, to God, spirituality and holiness are not merely about going to the temple (or church) and offering sacrifices (or giving offerings). It is about daily life itself. It is about how we behave at home, school, day care centre, church, market, neighbour's house, and so on. It is about obeying God and keeping His instructions in all areas of our lives, like family, diet, health, hygiene, relationship with people and God's other

creations (e.g., our environment, animals, plants, and so on? Yes!)

Huh! That is tough, right? Nevertheless, that is what God required of us! By doing that, we would be considered "holy."

Today, we might not be doing some of the things mentioned in Leviticus, but we keep the principle and spirit of love and obedience behind them.

We eat healthy food. We keep our environment clean. We do good to our neighbours. We honor our parents. We obey the laws of our country. Thus, we live a holy life that pleases God for He is holy and cannot tolerate unholiness.

Think about it:

Did you realise that holiness is actually very simple and practical; and that we can live it out every moment in our lives?

Today's Prayers:

- Pray that we kids will set our hearts to live a holy life by loving others and by being responsible in all areas of our lives.
- Pray that the low income B40 group will be helped by the government so that there will be a breakthrough in their poverty cycle.
- Pray for the Kensiu group in Baling, Kedah, that they will be able to live well with changes happening around them and that they will know God answers their prayers.

Day

12

God Is Mysterious But He Is Able To Be Understood

When the Israelites were asked to do or not to do certain things, they might not be told “WHY” they should or shouldn’t do that.

For example, they were told not to eat certain foods because those foods were unclean. What “unclean” meant was not specifically told. Like pork. Oh! How many of us are crazy about char siew (barbeque or roasted pork)? Can’t eat that? Seriously?!

Yet the Israelites who trusted God chose not to eat those foods based on His instructions.

Now, with science and study, we know that those foods were unhealthy for them. We understand that the instructions were meant for their own good, to keep them away from sickness as much as possible.

Like the Israelites, sometimes we are told by our parents that we are not to do certain things. Those things are bad. We might not

understand WHY, but out of our trust in our father or mother, we obey.

The same goes with God and His Word. We might not understand WHY God doesn’t answer our prayers or why He withholds something that seems good from us (like Eve and the forbidden fruit). However, if we trust God, we know that it will be for our own good.

We cannot fully understand God, not because God is unable to be known, but because we have limited knowledge. As we grow in knowing Him, we will grow to understand Him more.

And someday, like Paul said, we will know Him fully when we see Him face to face.

Think about it:

Should we be diligent to get to know God by knowing His words in the Bible?

Today’s Prayers:

- Pray that when we cannot understand God’s ways, we will be certain of His love for us so that we can have confidence, hope and strength to carry out His instructions.
- Pray that our society and workplace will help the younger generations perform well with their talents and strengths, and that they will be willing to stay on to help develop our nation.
- Thank God for the many people who help keep the traditional culture and language of the Kayaman who live along the Rajang River, Sarawak. Pray that the good news of Jesus Christ will be shared with them.

Day

13

God Is Personal To Every One Of Us

In the wilderness, God spoke to the Israelites through Moses. It seems that God was far away from them, doesn't it?

They couldn't approach God personally like Moses who went up to Mount Sinai to meet God. And, unlike us today, they couldn't access to God directly and freely chat with Him about anything under the sun.

However, God was still a personal God to the Israelites. He might not speak to them directly, but He spoke about them to Moses.

Look at the book of Numbers - how God arranged jobs for all the Levites, how He handled the families' issues, and how He rebuked Miriam and Aaron.

In addition, you read many names in the book of Numbers, right? Many names were mentioned individually because God knew them personally. He allowed those names (most of them appear only once) to be

included in the limited passages! It means that every person matters to Him!

He cares for everything He has created: everything and everyone. He never leaves them alone nor lets them settle their own problems.

He even sent His Son, who became one like us and lived among us, to show us Who God is.

God is personal and this should mean a lot to us. Can you imagine if you have parents who only give you food when you are hungry but never bother about what you do, how you feel, where you go wrong, or how can be better, etc.?

Think about it:

Are you glad and comforted to know that God knows you personally and that He looks forward to relating with you personally?

Today's Prayers:

- Pray that we will know God more personally and grow to become more like Him and less like us.
- Pray that kids like us will be careful when we make comments online or offline, and that we will not speak unkind words to people who don't agree with us or with things that we believe are true.
- Pray for the Temoq group in Temerloh, Pahang, whom others often unfairly think of as being wild and uncultured. Pray that they will come to know God and receive His healing.

Day

14

God Never Changes

We read Numbers and other books of the Bible and sometimes feel that the Israelites were a strange people.

Strange because their faith in God was so weak and inconsistent. Don't you think so? They rebelled against God and refused to trust in Him even after so many miracles, like crossing the Red Sea, raining of Manna from heaven, gushing of waters from the rock, and so on.

When the twelve spies came back from the Canaan Land, they brought with them both good and bad reports. Joshua and Caleb spoke about the opportunities but the other ten spoke about the threats and dangers. The Israelites chose to believe something that God never told them about – threats and dangers!

They were so fearful that they even wanted to return to Egypt - the very place where they used to be treated so very badly, where

their children were killed, and where tons and tons of work were placed on their shoulders!

While the Israelites were inconsistent in their mind and actions, God was consistent all the while. He promised Abraham He would lead his descendants into the Promised Land and He has never forgotten it since then.

Not even when the Israelites were in Egypt for 430 years, and they eventually forgot Him; the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Not even when the Israelites played around with Him for 40 years in the wilderness, taking His grace and mercy for granted and testing His patience!

Think about it:

Since God never changes, do you think anyone or anything can simply change His mind and plan for you?

Today's Prayers:

- Pray that we will not doubt God simply because others say something that does not agree with the Word of God.
- Pray that people who are involved in politics will not jump camps because of their love for money or position so that people who vote for them can trust them to fight for their needs and rights.
- Pray that the Kanowit group in Kampung Bedil along the Rajang River, Sarawak, will find their true identity in Christ Jesus even when they are losing their language and culture.

Day

15

God Is Living

Do you have a Tmall Genie or any electronic toy that you can command to do things for you?

People speak to all these gadgets as though they were speaking to a real person. These gadgets are under their command and control and it is almost like a modern day Aladdin's lamp.

Some people treat God like a Tmall Genie or Aladdin's lamp. They just want a one-way communication with God that goes like this: Jesus, I tell you, you listen, and you just do it for me. Thank you.

Yet, God is not an electronic gadget who only responds to our requests though He may do so lovingly and graciously when we pray to Him.

Balak thought that he could bribe God and His prophet. He paid a big sum of money and asked Balaam to help curse God's people. Balaam thought he could manipulate God too.

However, God forbade him from cursing the Israelites and was to turn the curse into a blessing instead. Balaam had to obey God and spoke forth God's good will for His people.

God is a living God. He is not passive in just responding. He takes action. He doesn't enjoy the one-way communication that most of us do. He demands a two-way communication where we tell him what we need and He may grant us what we asked for, and then He may tell us what we need to hear and what He wants us to consider to do.

He would never force us just like He didn't force the Israelites, laying down before them the way of life and death where they had to make a choice themselves.

Think about it:

How can we make our relationship with a living God more meaningful and wonderful?

Today's Prayers:

- Pray that we will meet God daily and enjoy a two-way communication with Him.
- Pray that children's rights will be well protected, especially in the states of Sabah, Sarawak and Kelantan where child marriage is widely practiced according to news released in the year 2020.
- Pray for the Jah Hut (or Cheres) group in Jerantut and Termeloh, Pahang, that God will hear their cries as many of them are bullied and paid unfairly.

**Section
4**

Knowing God: Knowing His works (In The Past)

Day 16: God & The Five Israelite Heroines

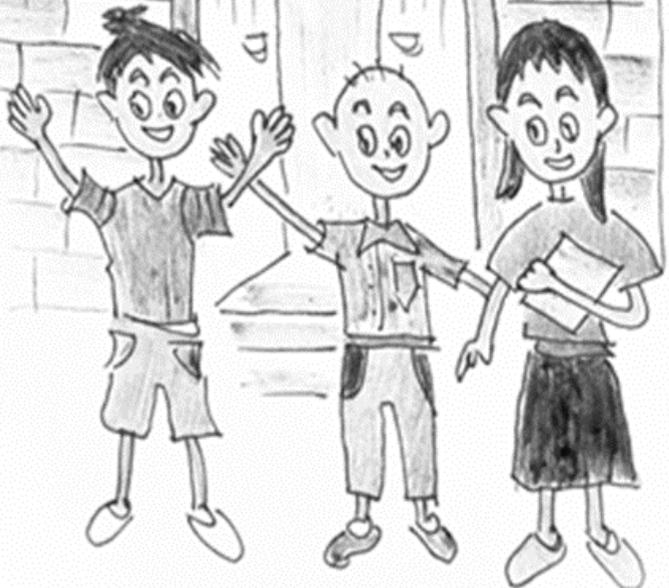
Day 17: God Is Our Inheritance

Day 18: Cities Of Refuge

Day 19: A Reminder And A Second Chance

Day 20: Remember The Cross-Over

Bible Reading: Numbers 34-36; Deuteronomy 1-34; Joshua 1-13



Day

16

God & The Five Israelite Heroines

In biblical history, we hear of some wonderful women who fought their way through a community that was mainly controlled by males.

The five daughters of Zelophehad, known as Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, Milkah and Tirzah, were mentioned twice in Numbers 27 & 36.

They came before Moses and the whole assembly of Israelites and raised a very critical and bold request that a portion of property should be given to them. Their father had died in the wilderness and it would be very unfair to them if their father's name were to disappear in the family line and no portion of land given to his family simply because he had no sons to pass them on to.

They might have said, "Here we are, Moses and our fellow countrymen. We come and ask for our rights and portion."

The five young ladies stood before the crowd confidently, knowing that God cared for widows and orphans, and that He would surely help them.

Moses asked God, and God told him to give them exactly what they asked!

A law for property distribution for those who had no sons to inherit their wealth was declared that day. The five girls not only got what they asked for, they also won the battle for the Israelite women down the generations!

In return, they obeyed Moses' instructions and agreed to marry only their own cousins so that their property would be preserved under the lots given to Manasseh, their ancestor.

Think about it:

Do you see from the case of Zelophehad's daughters that God cares for those who are in weaker positions? He spoke for them and granted them their rights!

Today's Prayers:

- Pray that we will always be confident to draw near to the throne of grace so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.
- Pray that our government ministers in the Cabinet will work well with one another and that their teamwork will help solve the problems in our nation.
- Pray that children of the Orang Kuala Duano will love to study and that they will receive higher education in university so that they can find better jobs and live a better life.

Day

17

God Is Our Inheritance

The Israelites were about to cross over the Jordan River when Moses recalled their past failures and told them of their future hope, warning them of possible disasters if they failed to fear and worship God.

Among the many things he shared, the Levites were mentioned. Everybody was going to have their own land. From slaves and wanderers, they would soon become landowners.

However, the tribe of Levites would not be given any land. The Lord promised that He would be their inheritance! He commanded the twelve tribes of Israelites to take good care of them. At the end of every three years, all the tithes would be shared by the Levites, the foreigners, the fatherless and the widows.

Sounds a bit weird and miserable, right? It was as though the Levites would be among

the needy – the poor, the weak and the outsiders who lived at the mercy of others!

However, the Levites were given 48 towns that spread throughout the entire Promised Land. They literally lived everywhere among the twelve tribes in different towns, and their main goal in life was to serve God fully in His Temple.

The Levites didn't have their own "portion", but the Lord was their portion and inheritance, and He worked out an economic system that helped them. Guess how? The best portion of the tithes and offerings were given to them!

Think about it:

The righteous never go hungry. The Levites received the best portion. Can you think of any better inheritance you could have than God Himself?

Today's Prayers:

- Be grateful for all that we have today and remember that every little thing that we own comes from the Giver of our lives. Pray that we will gladly receive God as our inheritance.
- People are losing their jobs since the spread of Covid-19. Pray that our government will design good plans to grow our nation and create jobs for the people.
- Pray that the "Jakun" (which means "slaves"), the second largest Orang Asli group in Johor and Pahang, will find their true identity in Christ and will willingly serve Jesus as their One and Only Master.

Day

18

Cities Of Refuge

There were six cities of refuge within the 48 cities dwelled by the Levites, with Golan, Ramoth and Bosor on the east, and Kedesh, Shechem and Hebron on the west of the Jordan River.

These cities were set aside for those who accidentally killed people. They could run there and hide so that people chasing after them would not be able to harm them and will be protected when the high priest then was alive.

For example, if a man went into the forest to cut trees and while in the process of swinging his ax, the head flies off and hits his neighbour and kills him.

It would be an accident, right? Exactly! It could happen anywhere, anytime, and to anyone. Anyone could have done that without intending to. Yet the family of the victim might be so blinded by their uncontrolled anger and grief that they might just want to take revenge by killing the killer.

The cities of refuge served for the good of both the offender and the one being offended so that no further sins would be built up over time. It teaches us some very simple truths about our relationship with God and with our neighbour.

First. Run to God in times of trouble. He is our refuge and strength, and He will protect us and declare us innocent in His way and timing.

Second. Cool down and forgive those who might harm us intentionally or unintentionally. Many times, we are at the mercy of those we have offended too. Let God handle our case.

Think about it:

Do you run to Him for protection? Wait for Him to do the fair and right thing? Or do you rush to settle issues in your own way?

Today's Prayers:

- Pray that we will be just as forgiving just as how God is forgiving to us. Pray that we will trust God to handle issues with friends and that we will love the offenders with the love of God.
- Pray for people who are depressed because of money, family, health or relationship problems, that God will heal them supernaturally and that they will find strength, hope and light in Christ Jesus.
- Pray that the voice of the Sian people group will be heard since they are a small group of people. Pray that they will have their rights as citizens of Malaysia.

Day

19

A Reminder And A Second Chance

People need reminders. How many times did your dad or your mom have to remind you not to play too many video games? Not to forget to finish your homework before your bedtime, etc.?

Grrr! That sounds like nagging. You must have heard them a thousand times! Does your inner voice say: I'm so fed up! Can't you just stop nagging? I already know it!

However, you find yourself failing again and again to do what you are reminded to do.

That was what happened to the Israelites. Moses was with them for 40 years and though he kept reminding them about the need to fear and worship God, all of them rebelled and died in the wilderness.

None of them entered the Promised Land, except Joshua and Caleb who trusted and obeyed God who told them they would possess it even though giants were there!

Moses reminded the new generation of Israelites that last time God's covenant was with their fathers but was with them now. They had heard it before but now the Lord will covenant with them personally.

Moses encouraged them with the promised blessings of obedience and warned them of the curses if they ever disobeyed God. They were reminded of the endless wandering circles of their fathers who wasted 40 years in the desert instead of reaching their destination within 11 days!

They felt God's grace and mercy as they were allowed a second chance. And this time, they chose to obey.

Think about it:

Can you recall a time when you failed God or your parents, but were given a second chance to do what you were told?

Today's Prayers:

- Remember God's grace and mercy and appreciate Him for the second chances! Pray that, like Joshua and Caleb, we will focus on God's commands and promises, and run towards the heavenly goal set for us.
- Pray for foreign workers who are sick and suffering because of the virus, that those who are jobless will be able to go home and that those who are staying to continue to work will receive good care from their bosses.
- Pray that Penan Christians will know God more by reading the Bible and attending the Church and that they will know that they are children of God and citizens of the heavenly kingdom. Pray that our government will take care of all their needs.

Day

20

Remember The Cross-Over

The Israelites heard how the Lord parted the Red Sea for their fathers. Really? How? Questions must have been on their little minds every time the event was recalled.

Then, they experienced a miracle almost like it. In front of them was the flooded Jordan River. Across it was the Promised Land. God instructed them to cross it after three days of consecration (dedicating ourselves to God.) No delay. No bargain.

They had to decide whether to stay in the desert or cross over to possess their future home.

By faith they obeyed the instructions and they crossed over the River!

Wow! Did they see the dry ground? The sound of rushing water far away?! The water stopped upstream at a town called Adam.

The astounded generation crossed the Jordan River. They might have been remembering the scenes their fathers told them about when the Red Sea parted. There they were - experiencing the drying up of the Jordan River! How amazing!

For them to remember the miracle, the Lord asked Joshua to arrange something. Twelve men were to carry twelve stones and place them on the riverbed, and another twelve priests had to carry the Ark of the Covenant and stand on them. Then the twelve stones were to be carried and placed in their camp.

The Lord wanted them to remember the cross-over. The Passover reminded them of their exodus and the twelve stones reminded them of their cross-over! Out of slavery and into freedom in Christ!

Think about it:

Do you do something to help you remember the goodness of God?

Today's Prayers:

- Pray that we will cultivate the habit of constantly recalling God's greatness and wonderful acts so that our faith can be strengthened each time we remember them.
- Pray that teachers and students will adjust well with changes in conducting classes. Pray that all teachers would be creative in making their virtual lessons more interesting to help kids learn better.
- Pray for Christians in the Murik groups who live in longhouses that are built along the Baram River in Sarawak, that they would fear God and be disciplined in the Word of God.

**Section
5**

Knowing God: Knowing His Works (In The Present)

Day 21: Helping One Another

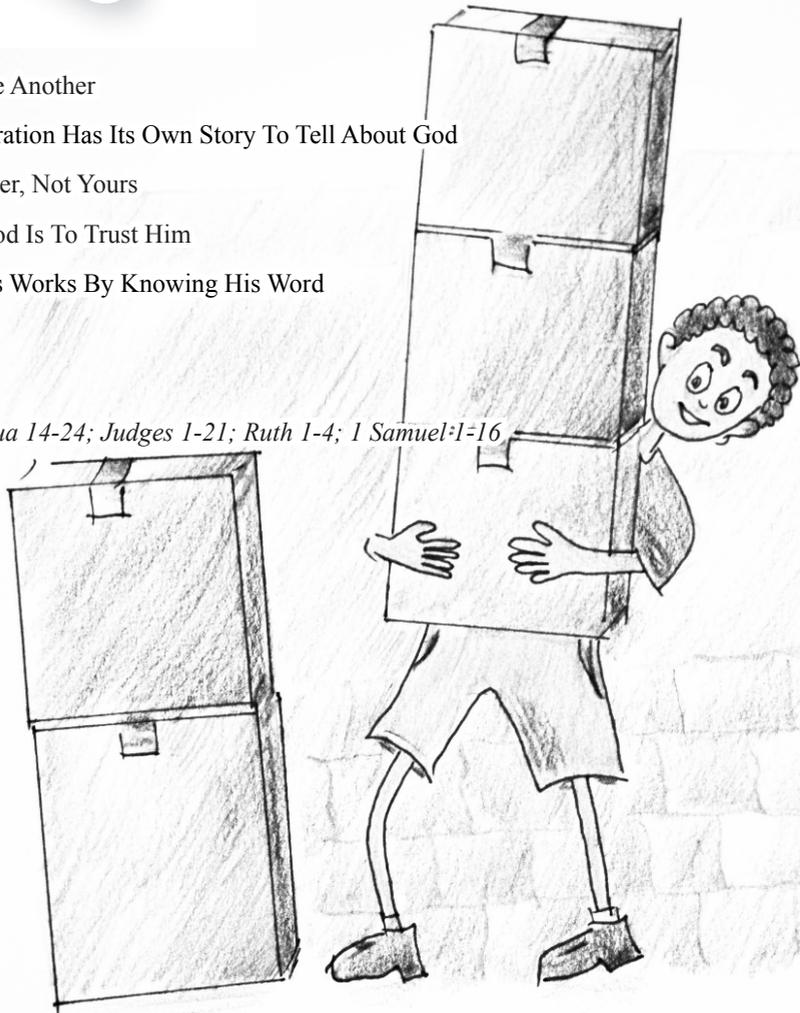
Day 22: Every Generation Has Its Own Story To Tell About God

Day 23: It's His Power, Not Yours

Day 24: To Know God Is To Trust Him

Day 25: Know God's Works By Knowing His Word

Bible Reading: Joshua 14-24; Judges 1-21; Ruth 1-4; 1 Samuel:1-16



Day

21

Helping One Another

How do you think your parents would feel if you are helpful to your siblings or others?

They would be very happy if their children lived in harmony, cared for and helped each other. That would be one of the most comforting things they could have from their children!

God also desires His people to live in perfect unity, like how the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit are united. The Psalmist says, *“how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!”*

The twelve tribes of Israelites were given pieces of land in different locations. The long passages in Joshua 14-21 tell you about this. The Reubenites, Gadites and the half tribe of Manasseh were first given their land East of the Jordan River.

However, they were told to cross over the River together with all the Israelites and fight as a team against the Canaanites before they could settle on their own land.

Hence, they left behind their wives and children and went to war to conquer the land. They didn't say, “Hey! That is not my business. I have my own land already and I need to work it for my own good.” They stood in unity with their brothers until they won the battle, and everybody finally got their land. Then, they returned to where they were supposed to be, and built their houses and did their farming there.

Think about it:

What can we do together as a family? Or in what areas can we help our family members to make each other better?

Today's Prayers:

- Pray that we will trust God and continue to help one another to glorify God in new patterns of living.
- Pray that the tourism activities in our country will be attractive to tourists so that it will help increase the income of the people.
- Many Bajau Laut kids are not attending school and so do not have the education and skills for better jobs. Pray that they will have the opportunity to go to school.

Day

22

Every Generation Has Its Own Story To Tell About God

Now, we enter a biblical period that is quite bad in the history of Israel.

Joshua passed away and soon, after him, all the elders who knew God also died. The Israelites failed to drive out the Canaanites among them and were influenced by them. They served Baal, the Canaanites' idol, and eventually, all sorts of other gods.

The Israelites were then without kings, and everyone did what was right in their own eyes. No kings, no laws. Since they didn't take God as their King, they had basically no truth in them.

Worst still, they were surrounded by neighbouring kingdoms and were often defeated by these enemies, becoming slaves to them just like what had happened to their ancestors in Egypt.

Funny, right? God called them out from Egypt, freed them from slavery, and made them landowners. They were supposed to

be big bosses but, because they disobeyed God, they became slaves again and again as they turned away from God.

So, every time they were bullied by their enemies, they cried out to God. God forgave them time and again by sending them judges, mighty warriors who led them into victory.

Judges is a book that tells us about the many failures of the Israelites. They never learnt from their bad experiences, and they always forgot about God's kindness whenever life became better.

Judges is also a book that tells us of the faithfulness, loving-kindness and mercy of God towards His ungrateful people. It shows the God who works in every generation, even among those who refuse to listen to Him.

Think about it:

Can you tell of God's work in your life?

Today's Prayers:

- Pray that children in our nation will always remember God's works and His mighty acts in their lives, and that they will keep their faith strong no matter what happens in the world.
- Pray that our big brothers and sisters (the youth) will treat one another properly in their boy-girl relationships and know that purity is important, and that life is a gift from God so that they will not simply kill or throw away babies.
- Pray that the schools in villages where the Orang Asli and Orang Asal live will have enough teachers to work for the needs and growth of the students.

Day

23

It's His Power, Not Yours

Samson was one of the most famous among the twelve judges who ruled over the Israelites. His story was told even before he was born when an angel was sent to warn his parents about his Nazarite calling.

A Nazarite was a man set apart by God, and he had to keep three vows: never to drink wine, cut his hair or touch unclean things.

Samson grew to become a very strong man. Have you heard about Popeye, the sailor man who gained his strength by eating canned spinach? His tiny arms grew big and strong so he was able to beat his enemies. Samson didn't grow in size but in strength when the Spirit of the Lord was upon Him.

God called Samson to rescue the Israelites from the Philistine bullies, but Samson was careless in his life's missions. He ate the honey he had found in the dead body of a lion he had killed in the vineyard some days earlier.

Vineyard?! Imagine the bees after they had gathered nectar from the grapes (used to produced wine), swarming in the body of the lion and producing honey! Samson went near the dead lion, took the honey and ate it! He made two mistakes at one time! He should not have eaten the honey from the dead lion, which was considered "unclean."

Later, Samson fell in love with Delilah, a woman who cheated him and made him tell her the secret behind his great strength. Delilah cut his hair, and he lost all his strength and was humiliated by the Philistines.

However, when he called for God's mercy, God granted him the strength to kill the Philistines!

Think about it:

Was it his long hair or God that kept Samson strong?

Today's Prayers:

- Pray that we will not be proud of ourselves when we have certain gifts or talents, but that we will learn to appreciate and give thanks to the Giver of our gifts and talents.
- Pray that doctors and the nurses who help patients fight against diseases and viruses will be protected, and that God will grant them peace as they serve their patients.
- Pray that the government and community groups will come up with good plans to help the indigenous people live in better conditions.

Day

24

To Know God Is To Trust Him

Ruth, the Moabitess, was like a bright star in the dark sky when the Israelites were losing their faith in God. Her mother-in-law, Naomi, and her family had left Bethlehem and gone to Moab because of the famine in Israel. There, Ruth married to Mahlon.

Even though Bethlehem means “House of Bread”, it had run out of bread and people felt they needed to find food somewhere else! How miserable the rebellious people were!

Naomi’s husband Elimelech and her two sons, Mahlon and Chilion, died soon after they arrived in Moab. It must have been hard for the three widows left behind. The best way for them to be helped would have been for them to remarry. Naomi heard that there was food again in Bethlehem. She decided to send off her two daughters-in-law to their own fathers’ houses and she would go back home to Bethlehem, alone.

However, Ruth refused to leave her though she knew that Naomi couldn’t give birth anymore to have a son that would grow up and marry her. Sticking with Naomi meant that she would likely be a widow for the rest of her life!

“No, I won’t leave you. Your God shall be my God, and your people my people. I shall die where you die.” Ruth stood firmly in her strong faith in God. She wanted to follow the God of Israel. Are you surprised? Ruth didn’t say that because she was blessed by God. She was indeed suffering from the bad things that were happening because of the disobedience in Elimelech’s family.

God honored Ruth’s faith. Later, she married Boaz and became a blessed person and someone special in God’s plan for the Israelites.

Think about it:

Will we trust God like Ruth did, even when we don’t feel that we are blessed by Him?

Today’s Prayers:

- Pray that we will continue to trust in God for the goodness of our loved ones, our health, our studies and our future.
- Pray for our government to have wisdom in handling the healthcare problems we face in our country caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Pray that the rights of the Orang Asli and Orang Asal will be respected by everyone and that they will be able to freely use their ancestors’ land for farming and get proper payment if their land is used by others.

Day

25

Know God's Works By Knowing His Word

The Israelites were a bit unhappy to have Samuel serving as their leader.

No doubt, Samuel was good. He treated them fairly. He never cheated nor used them for his own good. He traveled around and personally judged the people.

However, Samuel was just not their cup of tea. You see, their neighbouring countries all had kings. When they charged into the battlefield, they had kings leading them in front. The Israelites did not. They did see Samuel crying out to God in prayer, offering sacrifices to God and God did win the battles for them.

But...but...this Samuel was just good at praying, giving them long lectures, and offering God sacrifices. He didn't know how to fight! What they wanted was a king. They had never had a king and that was why they felt they were always bullied!

Samuel warned the people of the dangers of having their own king: they would have to give a lot of their garden produce, crops and animals to their king, and their children would have to become the king's servants and so on. The people refused to give up; they wanted a king! They soon got what they wanted, and Saul was chosen as the first king of Israel.

The Israelites asked for a king because they had never accepted God as their King. God's way was different from the ways of the world, but they didn't appreciate it. They didn't see the fact that their heavenly King was much more powerful than all the kings of their neighbouring countries!

Think about it:

Do you think that sometimes we behave like the Israelites in that we trust men's ability more than God's ways?

Today's Prayers:

- Pray that we will be strong in understanding God's Word through lessons learnt in church or at home, and that we will do great things for God.
- People are suffering under stress and many have mental problems. Pray that they will find ways to relieve their stress and that they will receive help from the Church too.
- Pray that the Orang Asli and Orang Asal who live in polluted areas will receive help soon.

**Section
6**

**Knowing God:
Knowing His
Works
(In The Future)**

Day 26: The Boy Who Worshipped God

Day 27: We Can Trust Our God Who Knows The Future

Day 28: A Mother Who Fights For Her Child's Destiny

Day 29: A Guy Who Didn't Know God

Day 30: Ask The Right Thing

Bible Reading: 1 Samuel 17-31, 2 Samuel 1-24; 1 Kings 1-10



Day

26

The Boy Who Worshipped God

“David and Goliath” is a popular biblical story we kids have heard about.

It excites us whenever we hear how a small-sized David managed to defeat Goliath, the horrifying giant of the Philistines, just by slinging a small stone that hit him right on the forehead!

Bang! The big crash must have startled the Israelites' army. They thought David would fall instead of Goliath. That annoying, playful chap and funny daydreamer claimed he could handle Goliath - with those five little stones in his bag!

Eliab, his big brother, had looked down on him and scolded him. Saul, the coward king, had doubted him. Goliath, the giant, had despised him.

They couldn't believe their eyes. The armies of Israel and Philistines were stunned. The giant fell and died under the hand of a shepherd boy!

David won the “battle” not by sword or spear or javelin, those weapons held by Goliath, but by the name of the Lord!

David then became well-known as a valiant warrior. He was once a nobody, an insignificant shepherd boy in the wilderness. Little did anyone know that it was there that the Lord trained his hands to fight!

He fought lion and bear! He fought Goliath! He fought the neighbouring enemies! And he fought the devil – by playing the harp and scaring the evil spirit out from Saul!

Where did David get that wonderful power and skill? From the One he worshipped alone in the wilderness! David knew God, His Name, His Word and His Power, and those were his secret weapons!

Think about it:

Will you worship God daily and in private (like David) even when nobody sees you?

Today's Prayers:

- Pray that we will live to worship Jesus Christ and to know Him through our daily encounters with Him and that, like David, we will believe in the power of God's name.
- Pray that churches and believers of Christ in Malaysia will live and breathe for the glory of God's name, and that they will be fervent in spreading God's fame and to walk in His divine plans and purposes.
- Pray that the Berawan people (East, West and Central) who live in longhouses along Baram River, Sarawak will experience God's tender touch in meeting their physical, mental, and spiritual needs.

Day

27

We Can Trust Our God Who Knows The Future

David defeated Goliath and later grew to be a great leader in Saul's army.

Saul became very jealous of David because David outshone him in the military. He tried all means to kill David until David had to leave Judah, fleeing to a Philistine town under Achish, his bitterest enemy. Remember Goliath? He was a Philistine!

Achish gave David the town of Ziklag as a settlement for him and his followers. David lied to Achish many times about his plunder of the Israelites. Achish trusted him and asked him to join forces with them and fight against the Israelites.

What?! Against his own people?

David never harmed God's people, not even Saul, God's anointed. Yet he had to agree to Achish's request to show his loyalty. However, the Philistine leader refused to bring David along for fear that David would turn against them in battle. He was sent back to Ziklag.

David did not know that, while he was away, all his family, people and possessions in Ziklag were raided and taken away by the Amalekites!

Do you see the hand of God working for David's good?

If David had gone to battle with the Philistines and killed his countrymen, how could he later lead them without guilt and shame? Moreover, how could he come to the rescue of his family and people in Ziklag?

David was called by God. He knew and loved God. He trusted in God's way of dealing with Saul. And God worked all things according to his purpose for David's good.

Think about it:

Do we have such "knowing" that we can trust God for our future?

Today's Prayers:

- Pray that we will learn from David's right responses in handling crises in life, and that we will submit to God and the leaders that He has placed upon us.
- Pray for young national leaders who will take good care of the future of our nation and not go after selfish gain.
- Pray for the Batiq (or Batek) groups who live near Taman Negara National Park to come to share the life of Jesus as a community and to enjoy His peace as sharing is their lifestyle and culture and peace their goal.

Day

28

A Mother Who Fights For Her Child's Destiny

Bathsheba is a famous biblical character, but not for a good reason because when you think of her, you think about her adultery with David.

Like Helen of the Troy who brought down a country by her beauty, some people might see Bathsheba as a woman who brought down David, the brave warrior, and made him a killer and an adulterer!

How did Bathsheba feel when she was summoned to the palace - a place that could offer her riches and honour? We can't tell because the Bible is silent about it. Maybe she was happy because she could enjoy a very good life there. Maybe she wasn't because she loved her husband, Uriah.

However she felt, Bathsheba knew God's plan for her child, Solomon, who was born later. David favoured Solomon because he loved Bathsheba, and he promised to make Solomon the future king after him.

When David grew old and couldn't be bothered about things, his son Adonijah plotted behind the scene and was declared king by his supporters.

Bathsheba knew she needed to remind David of his promise to her to make Solomon the next king. It was a dangerous request to make when the king was still alive. But it was equally risky for her to do nothing for she and Solomon could be killed if Adonijah became king.

Hence, she listened to Nathan, the prophet, and plucked up the courage to speak to David, who then ordered Solomon to be made king. Bathsheba saved her own life and Solomon's, and secured their promised future!

Think about it:

What made Bathsheba courageous must have been her knowledge about God's heart for her and her son's future! Do you know yours too?

Today's Prayers:

- Do you dare to speak up when something happens that makes it important for you to do so? Pray that God will grant you wisdom and courage to speak forth the truth in love.
- Many Malaysian women are leaders in their companies; pray that good women qualities will be valued by all, and that they will exercise godly influence with God-given gifts.
- The Lahanan (or Baram-Kenyah) group in Sarawak believe in and look up to immortal superhumans. Pray that they will give their lives to the real Superhuman, Jesus Christ, the Son of God who is immortal and lives forever.

Day

29

A Guy Who Didn't Know God

Absalom was one of David's sons.

His relationship with his father, David, had turned bad and he was forced to leave the palace because he killed his half-brother, Amnon, who had raped his sister, Tamar.

When Absalom was taken back to the palace, he was said to be the most handsome man in Israel. No pimples on his face. No pigments on his skin. Perfect! He had long hair. Wow! That was like his crown of glory!

David refused to meet Absalom after his return maybe because it would have been painful for him to recall Amnon's death. Absalom was not happy about it. After two years, he played some tricks on Joab, and David was forced to meet him.

Didn't Absalom reconcile with his father when David kissed him? Not so in his heart.

He started a secret plan to make himself king over Israel. He made people happy by listening to and helping them in their difficulties. He won over the hearts of some of David's officials. He then rebelled and took over the palace, catching David by surprise. David had to run for his life!

Later while riding in pursuit to kill his own father, Absalom's hair (remember his crown of glory?) got caught in a large oak tree and he was left hanging in midair. Joab killed him mercilessly.

Absalom suffered a tragic end. He could have lived on to serve God and have a bright future instead of taking that suicidal act of rebellion.

Think about it:

Absalom did such terrible things! Do you think he knew God?

Today's Prayers:

- Pray that God will guide our hearts so that we will not allow unforgiveness and evil desires to grow in us that might cause us to do wrong things.
- Pray that Christian parents will influence their children in a Christlike manner, and that they will live to leave a godly legacy for their children.
- Pray that Christians who serve among the Semoq groups will be sensitive to their needs, helping them to increase their living standards and training them with skills to earn an income.

Day

30

Ask The Right Thing

There are three characters in 1 Kings 1-10 (the passages you read today) asking for different things they desired.

Solomon asked for wisdom to lead God's people and he received not only wisdom but wealth, honour and long life. Wonderful, right? It is like you going to the toy shop to buy one toy and were given 3 free toys and games to bring home!

The Queen of Sheba asked Solomon a lot of questions and received answers not just in words but in expensive gifts! She went home satisfied mentally, spiritually, and physically.

You see, God is a generous Giver and Solomon, who received God's favour, was generous too towards the Queen of Sheba who asked for the right things.

Adonijah, on the other hand, asked for the wrong things. Twice in his life, he had asked for things that were not supposed to be his.

At first, he thought he could replace David, his father, to become king of Israel. He never learnt from Absalom's tragedy and never paid attention to God and his father's will. His rebellious plan failed but he was spared from death by Solomon.

Later he asked for Abishag, the Shulammitte woman who served David in his last days. It made Solomon very angry because, by doing so, he was literally asking for the kingship.

Adonijah lost his life because of his foolish wish.

Think about it:

How can we avoid asking God for wrong things or making foolish wishes?

Today's Prayers:

- Pray that we will know God's heart and His intention for our lives so that we will ask for the right things and be fruitful in our prayers.
- Pray that our schools will help us grow in all areas so that we will not only have book knowledge and skills but also good character and healthy relationships.
- Pray that Christians working in the Mendriq group will help give the children and youth biblical values and understanding.

**Section
7**

**Knowing God:
Knowing His
Word**

Day 31: What A Father Can Give To His Children

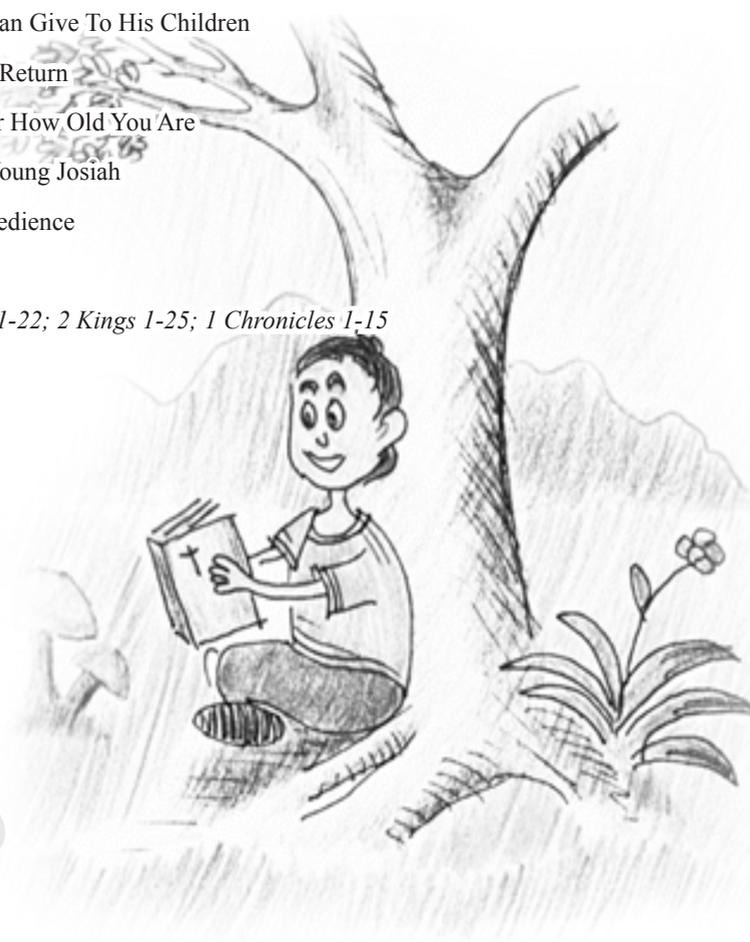
Day 32: A Pursuit Of No Return

Day 33: It Doesn't Matter How Old You Are

Day 34: God's Work In Young Josiah

Day 35: A Man Of Disobedience

Bible Reading: 1 Kings 11-22; 2 Kings 1-25; 1 Chronicles 1-15



Day

31

What A Father Can Give To His Children

Solomon was once a wise guy. His wisdom was above that of all men that had ever lived on earth.

He owned great wealth because he was very good at managing his resources. His kingdom was at peace because he knew how to keep good relationships with everybody. No neighbouring countries ever raised their weapons against him. The Israelites enjoyed a good life under his rule.

Everything was perfect outwardly. The Queen of Sheba travelled to hear Solomon's wisdom and was even more impressed after seeing his great kingdom. The world must have been in awe of him!

A wise man. A rich king. A saint of peace.

Yet Solomon disobeyed the Word of God by doing the very three things God forbade a king to do. He collected lots of silver and gold, built an army, and behaved badly with women!

Can you imagine? He even worshipped the gods of his pagan wives and concubines and built altars for them. He no longer sought God faithfully.

Gone was the young Solomon who asked for nothing but wisdom to govern God's people, and who dreamed of God twice and fellowshiped with God wholeheartedly.

What did Solomon leave behind for his son, Rehoboam? Kingdom, wealth, peace and prosperity. Yes! However, he also left with him a lot of idols and spirits of pagan worship!

Later, Rehoboam listened to some foolish advice and made the people suffer miserably until they rebelled. The kingdom was then divided and torn away from him.

Think about it:

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. Would things have turned out differently if Solomon had taken care to discipline himself and his sons in the Word of God?

Today's Prayers:

- Pray that we will always have Christ-like role models in families, schools, churches and places we live in so that we can be led in the way of the Lord.
- Pray for families in Malaysia that they would continue to be happy and blessed in unity, and that married couples will stay together no matter what happens in their lives.
- Pray that the Che Wong (Siwang) groups will get help because they are poor, underweight and often do not have enough good food to keep strong and healthy. Pray that they will know Jesus Christ as their Bread of Life.

Day

32

A Pursuit Of No Return

In 1 Kings 19, Elijah was told by God to anoint his successor, Elisha, who was then a farmer. Elisha slaughtered his oxen, burnt them with his plowing equipment and gave the meat to others. He left everything and served God alongside Elijah.

Elisha asked for a double portion of Elijah's anointing. He wanted very badly what Elijah had - his power as a miracle worker and his privilege to be the mouthpiece of God. Oh Yeah - Elijah spoke on behalf of God to a rebellious and stiff-necked people! Isn't that cool?!

When Elijah was about to be taken to heaven, he said Elisha could only receive his double portion of anointing if he saw him at the time he was taken to heaven.

Guess what? Elisha did it! He passed the test! He must have fixed his eyes on Elijah

day and night, moment by moment. Maybe he didn't even sleep soundly for days, weeks, or months!

So, Elisha received the double portion of anointing he asked for so that he could be a prophet after Elijah!

In those days, it was extremely hard to be a prophet in Israel. Most of their kings hated prophets who spoke the truth and were evil doers, like King Ahab and Jezebel who tried to kill Elijah. Though Elisha knew how dangerous it was to be a prophet, he still took up the challenge courageously for the sake of God!

Think about it:

Do we have the zeal to be used by God to speak His truth? And how can we speak the truth unless we know it and hear from Him?

Today's Prayers

- Pray that we will be honest in speaking and telling the Word of God. Pray for today's prophets, teachers, and preachers of the Word to handle it properly.
- Pray that the Parliament of Malaysia will operate in good order, and that the different suggestions and opinions will be taken to help make good results for people's living.
- Pray for the Orang Kanaq that the good news of salvation will reach this small group, and that their children will go to school so that they can find better jobs in the future.

Day

33

It Doesn't Matter How Old You Are

Here was this little smart kid, Joash. He survived the cruelty of his own grandmother, Athaliah, who wanted to wipe out the royal family of Judah.

Joash was rescued by his kind-hearted aunt, Jehosheba, and trained under her godly husband, Jehoiada the high priest, from the time he was a little baby in the cradle.

By the age of 7, Joash was enthroned as the 8th king of Judah.

A 7-year-old king? Seriously? And he turned out to be a good one!

Some of you may remember when you were 7, the age when you entered primary school and your mother or father had to hold your tiny hand walking in the campus.

That was what Joash experienced when he became king. Jehoiada held his little hand and walked him down from the temple to the palace, passing through the gate and

the guards as people rejoiced and cheered behind him because the throne was restored to the Davidic kingdom.

Now, how could a 7-year-old rule a nation with good decisions and policies? The Bible says that Joash did right when he ruled under the instructions of Jehoiada!

Though Joash did make some silly mistakes in the later part of his life, he sought to honour God and got the priests and people to repair God's temple when he was young.

Think about it:

What made Joash successful at his young age? It wasn't about his age or ability. It was his obedience to God and to his godly elders.

Do you take heed of the Word of God, and the godly advice given by your parents or spiritual leaders?

Today's Prayers:

- Pray that we will follow God's Word and the godly advice given to us, and that we will be serious in living a holy lifestyle and worship God with genuine hearts.
- Say a word of sorry to God in repentance for the nation and our people, for never wanting God and His ways, but always living the way we like. Pray for the Church to be a good example in living out the love and truth of God.
- Pray for the Sonsogon groups spread along the Magandai River in Sabah, that their children in boarding schools will receive good care physically and mentally, and that they will hear and respond to the good news of Jesus.

Day

34

God's Work In Young Josiah

Josiah was another super young Judah king. He became king at the age of 8.

He was superb as a kid and a youth. We wonder how because the people around him were really bad. His grandfather, Manasseh, was a wicked king who did a lot of bad things that the Lord hated and caused the downfall of Judah. His son, Amon, followed him and was also a bad king.

Yet Josiah stood out differently. Like a little lotus that grew out of dirty mud, he remained pure and untainted. He did things right in the eyes of God. Something very unusual, right? Since he had not even one good example to look up to.

When Josiah was 18, one of his officials found a book in the temple, and it happened to be the Word of God! Wow! The long-lost treasure of Judah!

Josiah desired to know the heartbeat of God. He wanted to guide the nation in the

Truth. He realized the nation had sinned against God and he led his people in repentance. They renewed their covenant with God.

Josiah smashed and burnt all the idols and pagan altars. He initiated the Passover Celebration. He led people back to worship the God of Israel. No Judah king had ever turned to God like him with all his heart, soul, and strength.

Josiah chose not to be influenced by peer pressure and what everybody else was doing. He chose God's ways instead of traditional or worldly ways.

Think about it:

What are those trends or patterns in our lives that go against the Word of God?

Do we dare to make a difference even when nobody else does?

Today's Prayers

- Pray that we will have simple faith like Josiah, who desired God and His Truth more than anything in the world, and that we will worship Him with all our hearts.
- Pray for our politicians that they will keep their promises and work hard at making plans to develop our country.
- Pray that the small community of Tonga will get to know Christ, and that they will fit in well and be able to earn a living when their kampung areas between the borders of Malaysia and Thailand are further developed.

Day

35

A Man Of Disobedience

Do you remember Saul, the Benjamite, who was anointed to be the first king of Israel?

He was born in a rich family. He was tall. Rich. Handsome. A dream guy and prince charming for young girls, right?

Young Saul was brilliant and good. He was responsible when he searched high and low for his father's lost donkeys. He was humble when he hid somewhere while lots were being cast and he was chosen as king. He was forgiving when he didn't put to death those who teased him and questioned his ability to be king of Israel.

However, Saul changed over time. God rejected him as king because, twice, he knowingly disobeyed God's instructive words.

How? First, he offered sacrifices when he was supposed to wait for Samuel to do so.

Second, he didn't completely destroy the Amalekites, but instead kept their king and some good animals.

He openly disobeyed the words of God. As a king, he showed a very terrible example, didn't he? It was like leading God's people to rebel against Him. And he tried to kill David because he was afraid David would steal his kingship. He spent his life going after his own interests but was careless in taking care of God's business.

Here in 1 Chronicles 10, Saul killed himself after he was wounded in the battlefield. His sons were killed too. He lost his kingship, his life, and worst still, almost his entire family.

Think about it:

How then can we learn from Saul's lessons to avoid making the same foolish mistakes?

Today's Prayers:

- Pray that we as little kids will learn to be obedient to God's words and go after His own heart so that we will grow to become a godly generation who does His will.
- Pray for businesses in Malaysia to be creative in finding ways to make money so that both business owners and workers will still have enough to live on.
- Pray for Mah Meri groups in different places to open their hearts to Jesus, especially the people in the 5 villages along the Klang River who have easy contact with outsiders.

**Section
8**

Practical Ways To Be Still

Day 36: The Joy Of Worshipping God

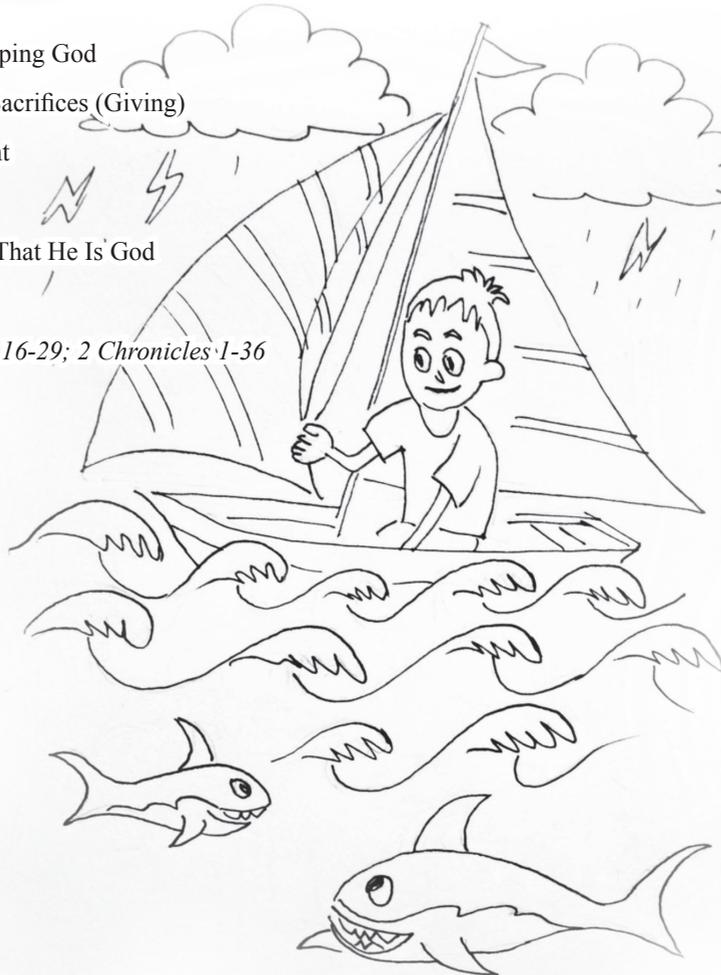
Day 37: Prayers & Making Sacrifices (Giving)

Day 38: When God Is Present

Day 39: The Blind Spot

Day 40: Be Still And Know That He Is God

Bible Reading: 1 Chronicles 16-29; 2 Chronicles 1-36



Day

36

The Joy Of Worshipping God

Have you ever discovered that, out of the many psalms David wrote for the Lord, there is one found twice in the Bible? Yes, it is in both Psalm 96 and 1 Chronicles 16:23-33.

When the ark of the covenant was carried into Jerusalem, David celebrated gladly before it. The whole city was filled with all sorts of sounds coming from musical instruments, with its king dancing and singing with his people.

Michal, one of David's wives, saw this. "Come on! You are a king, how can you dance and sing like a street man?!" Michal disliked and looked down on David in her heart. She couldn't understand why David had to behave like those "silly" common people!

As children, we can identify with the joy David had, can't we? When we are overjoyed, we too will shout aloud, jump,

and run around in a funny way, and we wouldn't care what people think, would we?

David danced and sang like a little child before God. Most adults won't do that. They practice self-control, and they like to have good manners! To Michal, it looked like David had no manners and that he had lost his mind by behaving in those "crazy" ways.

David didn't bother. He didn't care what people said or thought. He did more than merely worship God. He also arranged teams of Levites to be worshippers under the leadership of Asaph. He made sure that praises and worship would never stop in the presence of the ark.

Think about it:

Have you ever experienced the joy of worshipping God like David? Do you think your joy can help others discover God?

Today's Prayers:

- Declare God's glory among the nations and His wonders among all peoples (Psalm 96:3) and pray for your families, friends, etc., who have yet to receive Christ as their personal Savior and Lord.
- Pray that the young people of Malaysia will not think only about themselves but will show concern and love towards people around them.
- Pray for the Lanoh groups in Gerik and Lenggong that they will find different ways to earn their income as the forest is running out of things that they can use, and that Christians among them will be trained well in the Word of God.

Day

37

Prayers & Making Sacrifices (Giving)

Here were David, the father, and Solomon, his son, showing us the relationship between prayer and making sacrifices (or giving) to God.

In 1 Chronicles 29, David gave generously to God's future temple. His sacrifices moved the hearts of his leaders and officials, and they gave to the Lord all they could willingly, wholeheartedly and with great joy.

In 2 Chronicles 1, Solomon went to the high place in Gibeon with his assembly of leaders and offered a thousand burnt offerings there. Oh! What a magnificent scene it must have been, with huge pillars of fire and smoke rising as many sacrifices were burnt. Awesome! Can you imagine it?

After they made their sacrifices, they prayed to God. David might have prayed with eyes wide open in the daytime, while Solomon prayed with eyes closed at night in his dream.

David and Solomon were biblical examples showing us that it is good to not come before God empty-handed. *"...I will not offer burnt offerings to the Lord my God that cost me nothing."* (2 Samuel 24:24) That was David's spirit of worship and prayer!

Now, because Jesus had become our sacrifice, we no longer have to burn sacrifices before we pray. As children, we also don't have much money to give to God. However, we must come before Him with "all our hearts"!

Come before God and be ready to give your "heart" fully. Make yourself a living sacrifice even before you pray! Prayer is about giving yourself to Jesus and letting Him tell you what to do.

Think about it:

Do you find it hard to give your heart away to Jesus?

Today's Prayers:

- Find a quiet place in your home or garden and remain quiet to reflect on David and Solomon's prayers. Pray that you will know God more as you offer yourself fully to Him.
- Pray that our government will do well in combating the Covid-19 and the buying and giving out of its vaccines.
- Pray for the Penan-Nibong groups in Sarawak, that they will find comfort, peace and strength to face changes in their lives when they hear the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Day

38

When God Is Present

The stories of Abijah and Asa, another father and son pair, are found in 2 Chronicles 13-16. They were kings of Judah who left behind good names and reports.

Abijah waged war against the rebel, Jeroboam, who tore away the kingdom from his father, Rehoboam. He brought 400,000 soldiers with him while Jeroboam had his 800,000 warriors lined up behind him.

Abijah was outnumbered. Yet, he remained faithful to God and trusted Him, remembering His covenant with David, his great grandfather. He was sure of God's presence with him and his team of royal priests who sounded the trumpet calls. Since the Israelites worshipped the golden calf and had non-Levite priests, they would surely fail when they came against God!

Such was the faith of Abijah. The Bible says that God defeated Jeroboam and the Israelites before Abijah and Judah. It was God's battle, not Abijah's!

Later on, Asa succeeded Abijah and he became the 5th king of Judah. Asa did right and good in the eyes of God. He removed idols and commanded God's people to seek Him and keep His commandments.

When the Ethiopians came against Judah, Asa called out to God. God then defeated the Ethiopians, and Judah enjoyed great peace for a long time. Asa led his people in rebuilding the altar of God. Sadly, Asa later chose to trust in human help (the Syrians) in going against the Israelites, and lost God's blessings and His presence in his life altogether.

Think about it:

Do you see the many biblical examples where God fought for His people when His presence was with them? How then can we have God's presence?

Today's Prayers:

- Find a place with a nice chair and sit there to enjoy your meeting with God. Then ask the Lord in prayer to show you about His plans and purposes in your life.
- Pray that God will help the many maids who are badly treated by their bosses, such as not being paid for their work, not given rest days, and are sometimes even beaten. Pray that their bosses will treat them well.
- Pray that the Tring groups in Sarawak will meet God through dreams and visions, and that their lives will be changed for the better when they experience God.

Day

39

The Blind Spot

Everybody has made some careless mistakes before, right? There are weak points in our lives that we might not be aware of (even though people around us might know it), and we call these our “blind spots.”

Our “blind spots” can cost us small or big troubles. Hence, it would be safer for us to always counter check with others whenever we want to make a new decision or do a new thing.

Jehoshaphat was another great king of Judah. He led his people in worshipping God. He sent his officials to teach the Law in the cities of Judah. He built a strong defense system. He ordered judges to fear God and serve the people fairly. The kingdom of Judah prospered under him.

When the Ammonites, Moabites and Meunites came to attack Judah, Jehoshaphat declared a national fast, and his whole army set out to their battlefield with praise and

worship to God. God then caused their enemies to kill each other and Judah won the battle without a real fight!

Sadly, Jehoshaphat later made the serious mistake of linking with Israel and working with them. First, he married his son Jehoram to Athaliah, a daughter of Ahab, who would later kill his descendants and almost destroy his entire kingdom.

Then, he went into battle with king Ahab against the Syrians, which was against the warning of Micaiah, the prophet. They lost their battle. Ahab was killed, but Jehoshaphat, thankfully, was spared by God. He was reminded again by Jehu, a seer, about his careless decision.

Think about it:

Do we have a Micaiah or Jehu in our lives to keep us away from our blind spots? Do we hear them out?

Today's Prayers:

- Take 10 minutes of silence before God and pay attention to Him. Write down in your journal whatever the Holy Spirit brings to your mind. Look out for a blind spot and give thanks to God for revealing it to you.
- Pray that our government will solve the flood issue as it brings harm to people in affected areas during the rainy seasons, especially those in the East Coast states.
- Pray for the small group of Utik in Upper Rajom and Tatau Rivers, Baleh, Sarawak, that they will learn new skills to earn more money for a better life, and that they will be touched by the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Day

40

Be Still And Know That He Is God

So far, we have heard the many exciting biblical stories that tell us how God fought and won the battle for those who put their trust in Him. Hezekiah's story adds something even more interesting to these testimonies of God's wonderful works among His people.

Assyria, the world's strongest power then, came to invade Judah. Sennacherib, their king, sent his men to Hezekiah, said bad things about God and spoke against His people. They yelled and yelled in the Aramaic language, trying to scare the people off!

They said: Don't believe in Hezekiah. He cheated you and lied to you that your God can save. The Assyrian army went to many places and none of the gods of these places had ever saved their people from our hands! Your God won't save you. You better surrender if you want to live!

These words frightened the people. They likely said to each other: Yeah! What the Assyrians said is true. Everywhere they went, they won the battle. Didn't Israel fall into their hands? Judah is but a tiny nation; How could a grasshopper go against a giant?

Hezekiah was broken and worried. Yet he trusted God. He called for Isaiah, the prophet, and together they cried to God for help. Loudly, they sent their prayers to heaven!

God then did a miracle for Judah. He killed all the mighty men in the Assyrian camp. Overnight, the whole camp of the Assyrian army became a graveyard full of the dead!

Huh! Isn't it marvelous? By busily chirping to God, the grasshopper did indeed overcome the giant!

Think about it?

Is there anything in your life that is as frightening as the Assyrians? Bring it before God and be still before Him.

Today's Prayers:

- Take 10 minutes of silence before God. His voice is gentle and soft. Be still and acknowledge who He is. Don't hurry. Give thanks and ask Him what is that small change you need to do?
- Pray that the plans of government to help people make good use of their talents will be successful.
- Pray for the Semelai groups near the Lake Bera, Pahang, that they will make their place well-known and fun for people to visit so that they will have more jobs and earn higher income.

Acknowledgement

Writer: Tan Poh Kian
Editors: Flora Tan & Eunice R. Chin
Advisors: Pr Sam Ang
NECF Prayer Commission
Cover Designer: Pr Jonathan Renu
Illustration: Jously Buaya
Layout Designer: Dinesh Danny
Printer: Akitiara Corporation Sdn. Bhd



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

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

Email: enquiries@necf.org.my
Website: www.necf.org.my