

Children's Edition



HOPE of Jubilee

Consecrate the fiftieth year and
proclaim liberty throughout the land
to all its inhabitants. - Leviticus 25:10



HOPE of Jubilee



40-Day Fast & Prayer 2012
(7 August - 15 September)

Helloooo!

Welcome to the 40-day Fast & Prayer 2012!

Have you done the 40-day Fast & Prayer before? If this is your FIRST time, I am happy to know! This is an important step in growing your FAITH in our Great and Awesome God. If you have joined us before, WELCOME AGAIN! Praise God for your faithfulness!

These 40 days, Christians from ALL over Malaysia will be fasting and praying - it is a special time. As you join everyone at this time to fast and pray and examine your heart, you are standing up for Malaysia and asking God to do His will in our country. Are you ready??

This year has a very important theme - HOPE OF JUBILEE. It is a theme that is not easy to understand if you have never heard of what JUBILEE means.

In the bible, the Jubilee is a time of freedom, healing and blessing. The Jubilee lasts for one year and is extremely special as it happens only once every 50 years. God commanded the Israelites to keep the year of jubilee, and most people only experienced the year of jubilee **once in their lifetime.**

There is more to know and understand about the Jubilee, and you will learn more about it in the first week of this Fast and Prayer. Right now, you may be asking this question **"So what has the Jubilee got to do with us IN MALAYSIA?"**

THE ANSWER IS 1963. In this year, West Malaysia (it was called Malaya at that time), Sabah, Sarawak and Singapore came together to form one country called Malaysia. Although Singapore pulled out to become a country of its own two years later, 1963 can be considered as Malaysia's true birthday.

Now, if we do some simple math:

$$2012 - 1963 = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$$

Yes, 49 years! In the bible, the year of jubilee started on the 49th year and lasted until the 50th year. So, this year 2012 is actually **MALAYSIA'S YEAR OF JUBILEE**.

For the Israelites, there was **GREAT HOPE** during the Year of Jubilee because of the freedom and blessing that God poured out on them.

This year in 2012, the year of Malaysia's Jubilee, we are going to fast and pray and seek God to bring **the great SPIRITUAL hope of Jubilee to our country**.

May God bring healing and freedom to the sick, the hungry, the lost, the oppressed and bullied, the poor, the broken-hearted and the hopeless. May He pour out His power and love, and bring incredible freedom to everyone in Malaysia. May there be a GREAT LIGHT in our country, GREAT LOVE, GREAT HOPE, and GREAT RELEASE. This year, let us pray for the GREAT HOPE OF JUBILEE for our country!

A Commitment To Fast & Pray

This year, I want to strongly encourage you to do a **COMBO prayer**. A **COMBO** prayer is basically having a partner to pray and fast with.



Why two and not one? King Solomon, the wisest man who ever lived, said this:

Two people are better off than one, for they can help each other succeed. If one person falls, the other can reach out and help. But someone who falls alone is in real trouble.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

With someone to pray and fast with you, it will be much easier for you to finish the 40 days well!

A very good **COMBO** partner is someone whom you see every day. This year, I want to encourage you to ask your **parents/guardians** to pray and fast with you. You will be able to learn a lot from your parents/guardians in how they pray, and they can also learn a lot from you in how **YOU** pray.

Once you have asked your parents/guardians to pray and fast with you, ask them to read the note below:

Dear parents/guardians,

It's AWESOME to know that you will partner your son/daughter in these 40 days of fasting and prayer! Great things happen when children are guided to pray and fast for God.

A very striking scenario in the Bible occurred when the disciples rebuked those who were bringing children to Jesus. It states in Mark 10 that Jesus was indignant (angry, incensed, offended, annoyed) and said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these". He continued to say, "Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it".

Two things are clear here: Jesus wants the children to come to Him, and He highly values their simple faith. By praying & fasting with your child these 40 days, you are really bringing him or her to God, which pleases Him! You will also be greatly encouraged as your child challenges you with their genuine and powerful faith.

This booklet follows the main prayer items in the adult prayer booklet, so you can choose to use it hand-in-hand with the adult version, or to simply use the children's prayer booklet. Some parts in the booklet contain activities you can do together with your child. Your guidance and company will really help bring the material to life and to encourage your child to follow through the booklet.

Thank you and let's begin these 40 days of fasting and praying together!

NOTE TO KIDS: For those of you whose parents / guardians are unable to pray with you, please ask a brother / sister / Sunday school teacher / a BFF or friend to PARTNER you for these 40 days.

BEFORE you fill in your COMBO Agreement, let's look at TWO important things to remember when fasting.

#1 Decide on what you want to fast from

The most common way to fast is to fast from FOOD. It could be something that you eat almost every day like rice or bread, or something that you really like, for example chicken or noodles. It could also be a meal like breakfast or lunch. For those with gastric problems, be more careful. Make sure you drink a filling drink like Milo to keep your body healthy.

Another way to fast is to choose something you really like and fast from it. It could be watching television, playing computer games, getting on Facebook or listening to music. As long as it is something that has become very important in your life, choose to fast from it.

#2 Ask God to help you live righteously by loving those around you

It is important to remember that fasting is not just about reminding our physical bodies to put God first. It is also about reminding our spiritual self to honour God and His commands. What God desires most of us are two things: Loving Him with all our hearts, soul, mind and strength, and loving others as we would our self. This does not mean that after the 40-day fast and prayer, we can forget about loving Him and others. These 40 days will serve as a reminder to us so that we can continue and REMEMBER how to honour God and put Him first in our lives.

Why don't you take two minutes right now and think about how you want to love others around you. Maybe it could be helping your mom wash the dishes when she's very busy, or talking to a friend in school who doesn't have many friends. It could also be giving away some of your clothes or toys to those who need it but don't have enough (you could ask your Sunday School teacher if your church donates clothes or toys to the needy).

NOW, you are ready to make your agreement. Fill in the blanks below:

COMBO Fast & Prayer Agreement

We, _____ (your name)
and _____

(parents/ guardians/friend/someone you've chosen), make
a commitment together to fast from _____

_____ (e.g. breakfast, recess, chicken, television)

during these 40 days, and to love others by _____

We also agree with one another to pray at _____
(time) every day. We ask right now for God to help us, be with
us and lead us.



Week 1: Hope of Jubilee

*This week, we will be praying for God to **bring the Hope of Jubilee to Malaysia**. Even though it is challenging to pray and fast for our country, let us believe that God will give us a way to do His work. Let us be faithful servants and pray earnestly for Malaysia, trusting God to do what we ask!*



Jubilee!

Spiritual food: Leviticus 25:10

God commanded Israel that at every 50th year, they must observe the Jubilee. This coming 16 September, Malaysia begins her year of Jubilee.



Although we are not commanded as the Israelites were to have the Jubilee, this celebration is like a mirror of what God desires for all people and nations. When Jesus died and resurrected, He made the way for all people to enter into Jubilee - a time of freedom and rest from sin and death.

In Malaysia, many people are still under the power of sin. However, the good news is JESUS has the power to free them and provide for them! We believe that this is what God desires for all Malaysians, especially in our 50th year.

Pray for a Malaysian:

- Think of someone who has a serious problem (e.g. maybe someone who smokes, lies, gambles, or is very sick). Will you pray for this person today that God will free him/her?

Pray for Malaysia:

- Thank God for being faithful to Malaysia for the last 49 years.
- Commit the coming 50th year to God.
- Ask God to give freedom to all Malaysians.





Fresh Start

Spiritual food: Leviticus 25: 10-11

God commanded these three amazing things for the Israelites during the Jubilee:

- 1 Any man who had owned land but sold it - would have it returned to his family.
- 2 Anyone who had become a slave because he couldn't pay what he owed to other people - would be freed and allowed to return to his family.
- 3 Everyone was to rest and not work.

This meant that everyone in Israel will have a FRESH START. Everyone would have the same chance and ability to start again. After reading this, what kind of God do you think He is?

In Malaysia, this is what we need and desire to see happen.

Pray for a Malaysian:

- Do you know someone who is doing badly? It could be that this person is not doing well in studies, or doesn't have a happy family, or is in a poor family. Pray that God will give this person rest and a fresh start.



Pray for Malaysia:

- Pray that God will come and give Malaysia a fresh start.
- Pray that everything that is not in order in Malaysia will be set right..



Return of Land!

Spiritual food: Leviticus 25:13

Today, we will look more closely at the return of land to the original owner in the Jubilee.

Land was very important because it ensured that the owner would have a place to stay and to bring up his family, and to plant food and raise cattle. At that time, if a man became poor and was not able

to support himself, he would sell his land. The buyer of his land could own it, but only until the Year of Jubilee. In this year, the buyer had to return the land to the original owner. This was God's way of making sure every Israelite and their children were taken care of.



In Malaysia, there has been a lot of unfairness when it comes to the buying and selling of land. Some people who should own the land are no longer the owners because it was taken unfairly from them by others. Also, some land laws are unfair because the owners are only allowed to keep the land for a short number of years.

Pray for Malaysia:

- God will make things fair for the land owners in this year of Jubilee.
- Pray that the wealth of those who are unfairly treated will be restored so that their children are taken care of.





No more Slavery!

Spiritual food: Leviticus 25: 39-41

What is a slave? Is a slave different from a servant?

[TALK ABOUT IT WITH YOUR COMBO PARTNER]

A slave actually belongs to another person and is forced to obey his or her owner. On the other hand, a servant is someone who is paid to do what his or her employer or boss asks.

If a servant's boss treats him or her badly, the servant can stop working for the boss and is allowed to complain. However, IF a slave's owner treats him or her badly, he or she CANNOT stop working for the owner and is not allowed to complain. So, a slave's life is 100 times worse than a servant!

From the verses you read, you can see that God really did not want his people to be enslaved. God commanded the owners of Israelite slaves to treat them well and to only think of their slaves as servants. They were not to treat them harshly like the other tribes who did not know God.



Not only that, God made sure that these Israelite slaves were not permanent slaves. So God commanded that in the Year of Jubilee, the slaves together with their children must be set completely free and allowed to go back to their families. What a blessing for the slaves in Israel!

In Malaysia, although there are no 'official' slaves, there is still slavery. Some people sell poorer people to do work they don't want to even though it is not allowed by the government. Some people are slaves to such problems as poverty and drugs.

As we can see, God hates people being slaves. Let's pray for God's freedom for these slaves.

Pray for Malaysia:

- God to free those who are slaves to sin.
- God to free those who are forced by others to do work they don't want to do.
- God to free those who are very poor and suffer because of this.





Peaceful Rest

Spiritual food: Leviticus 25: 11-12; 20-22

In this special Year of Jubilee, God also gave peaceful rest to His people. He promised to provide enough food from the land so that the Israelites did not have to work and could rest.

To obey this command, the Israelites really needed to **TRUST** God because they could not work for food - God promised to provide them with food and rest.

In Malaysia, there has been a lot of unrest. Some irresponsible leaders and Malaysians have been irresponsible and have criticized other races and religions ungraciously and unfairly. This has created a lot of hatred and anger in the country.

Pray for Malaysia:

- Trust God to bring peace and rest to our country.
- Trust Him for good relationships between races and religions.





Throughout the next six weeks, we will learn about the Great Prophet Elijah at the end of every week. There are many things we can learn from Elijah which will help us pray for Malaysia in our Year of Jubilee.

In James 5: 16b-18 it says:

The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective. Elijah was a man just like us. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops.

Elijah was a righteous man whose prayer was powerful and effective. Let us learn from this man of God, and be encouraged to pray like he did!

Each week, there will be a passage & some activities you can do with your Combo Partner. May you grow as you learn together, encourage one another, and of course, have fun together!

It will take you about 30 minutes to read through this part and do the activities. You can choose to read it first on your own, or have someone read it aloud.

The Great Prophet Elijah – A man just like us?

I'm sure you've heard stories of the Great Prophet Elijah who did great and awesome things for God. He was the prophet who turned things around for his country, who made his people remember God and brought them back to Him. He did this at a time when almost EVERYONE was not walking with God and the KING completely disrespected God by worshipping idols.

Have you ever felt that these great prophets of God could do such great things because... well, they were great prophets! They were called by God and they could hear CLEARLY from Him. They had received POWER from God... power to part the Red sea, power to beat a mighty army, power to call down fire from heaven - with all these things going for them, doing great things for God wasn't a problem at all!

"It's not easy being me"

Believe it or not, Elijah - the Great Prophet of God - didn't have it so easy.

Elijah was first mentioned in the bible during the time of King Ahab - a king of Israel who did many evil things that were worse than the kings before him. One of the many sins he committed was to worship idols. This made God extremely angry. As a sign and punishment to Ahab, Elijah went to the King and delivered a warning from God: "There will be neither dew nor rain in the next few years except at my (Elijah's) word".

After giving this command, guess what?

Yes! There was no sign of water in Israel and there was a great famine

in the country. Everyone in Israel, people and cattle alike, suffered from having no water to live on... INCLUDING Elijah.

However, God was faithful and provided for him. God directed Elijah to a place, and ordered ravens to bring him bread and meat in the morning and in the evening. For water, Elijah could drink from a brook that God provided.

As the days went by, and there was still no rain, there grew less and less water in the brook for Elijah to drink. Finally, the brook dried up and Elijah had no more water.

If you were Elijah, how would you feel?

The brook that God has let you drink from has...dried up!

Discuss with your COMBO Partner.

- **Give 2 words to explain how you feel about this situation.**
- **Give 1 word to explain how you feel about God.**

Elijah would probably have thought... If the brook that God Himself has directed me to has dried up, then what should I do? Where am I to get water to drink? There must be no water left in the land!

This was definitely a problem for Elijah, and he could do nothing but to rely on God for his next step. At this point, he was probably thinking, "It's not easy being me".



**When you feel "It's not easy being me", what do you do?
Do you continue to trust God?
Do you continue to do God's work? Are you faithful?**

Like Elijah, many Christians feel it's not easy doing God's work. Difficulties come our way... maybe we need to give up our time to pray for others or help our mom watch our younger brother when we could be doing something better like watching television or playing computer games. Maybe our friends think we're weird just because we have decided to be friends with that 'weirdo' in class.

Whatever the difficulty, we sometimes feel discouraged, confused and tired when things get tough... WHILE we are doing the right thing for God. But like Elijah, we must trust God to provide a way for us. We must also continue to serve Him and do His work even though things are difficult for us.

**Let us remember this:
When the going gets tough,
DON'T QUIT ON GOD
because HE DOESN'T QUIT ON YOU.
He is faithful and will give us a way to GET US GOING.**



Week 2: Prayer & Hope of Jubilee

*This week, let us cry out to God
in prayer that the church
will learn how to pray in power and authority.*



Waiting on God

Spiritual food: Luke 24:49

Before Jesus went back to heaven, He gave this instruction to his disciples: Wait in the city (Jerusalem) until you receive power from God. **Wait... until.** When you seek God in prayer, do you wait... until?

What does this mean? Well, when you come to God in prayer, do you pray and look forward to God's answer? Do you wait and believe that He will answer your prayer in HIS time and in HIS way?

This is a very important attitude in prayer: To wait... until. This does not mean that you have to pray for hours and hours, although some people are led by God to do so. What it means is to follow God's time.

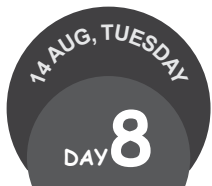
Sometimes He wants us to carry on praying - we can feel the Holy Spirit giving us more to pray for. Sometimes He wants us to keep at our prayer, even though we don't see the results we want and as soon as we want. Praying is not our idea of how and when God should work, but rather, praying is giving or handing over to God what we have prayed and to wait for His timing and His provision - HE will be the one to change the situation, and to clothe us with the power and ability to change things.

Let us come to God with a trusting spirit and learn to wait.... until. Then, He will surely give us His power, that is when our prayers are really effective!

Pray for Malaysian Christians (including yourself):

- Do you know how to wait...until? Ask God to give you this attitude.
- Pray that the church will learn how to wait...until.
- Pray that God will pour out His Spirit on the church as they wait on Him.





Having Spiritual Authority

Spiritual Food: Luke 10:19

Jesus spoke of a spiritual authority in the verse you read today. **What does authority really mean?** Authority is power - but it is power that is given.

The government has authority, the police force has authority, your headmaster and teachers have authority. All of them are given their authority: the government is given the authority by the majority of people in the country to carry out their responsibilities; the police are given authority by the government to ensure the law is obeyed; your headmaster and teachers are given authority by the government and their superiors to carry out their responsibilities in education.

Spiritual authority comes from God Himself. But it does not come automatically. When we wait, trust and obey God, God gives us spiritual authority. Like Elijah, we need to be trained by God to trust and obey Him. Elijah had to go through many difficulties so he could learn to trust and obey God during these times. As he did this, His faith in God grew, and he gained spiritual authority from God.

If we want to move in spiritual authority, we must learn to trust and obey Him even when things are difficult, or when we don't understand. Will we continue to be obedient even when we don't see the answers to prayers that we have prayed for?

Pray for Malaysian Christians (including yourself):

- Pray that Christians will walk with God trusting and obeying Him.
- Pray that Christians will receive spiritual authority from God.





Faith

Spiritual Food: Matthew 17:20

FAITH

Faith... confidence or belief that God CAN... is powerful. Do you believe that God CAN? If you do, then nothing is impossible because God CAN do it!

God is pleased when we have faith that He CAN, so if you have faith in God, then great things can happen!

Do you have a story to tell about a time when you prayed and God answered your prayer?

Take some time to share it with your COMBO Partner.

Pray for Malaysian Christians:

- Pray that your COMBO Partner will grow in faith.
- Pray that Christians will grow and have GREAT faith in God.





Praying for Justice

Spiritual food: Luke 18:1-8

Justice happens when those who do wrong are punished. We must pray that there is justice in Malaysia so that those who are wronged do not continue suffering.

Many people in Malaysia, especially the poor, are wrongly treated by others. For example, some immigrants (those who are from other countries) are paid very little for the work they do. Some maids are also beaten by their employers and suffer quietly on their own. There are many other sad stories in Malaysia.

We must care about what is happening to these people and pray continually and whole-heartedly for them. God will give Christians the authority to speak out against such cruelty and injustice when we pray like this.

Pray for Christian Malaysians (including yourself):

- Pray that Christians will care about those who suffer because of injustice.
- Pray that Christians will cry continually to God for justice in Malaysia.





Doing God's Will

Spiritual Food: Isaiah 42:6-7

This year is Malaysia's Jubilee year. What has God anointed Christians to do at this special time?

God has anointed us to bring good news to the poor, to bring justice to the country, to be a light to those who do not know Him, to open the eyes of the blind, and to free those who are in darkness.

Having God's anointing means that we are given God's authority to do all these things.

Pray for yourself:

- Pray and ask God to help you bring hope to those who need it, just as He has anointed you to do.

Pray for Malaysian Christians:

- Pray that Christians will rely on God's anointing to bring hope and never to rely on their own strength.
- Pray that Christians will do what God has anointed them to do.



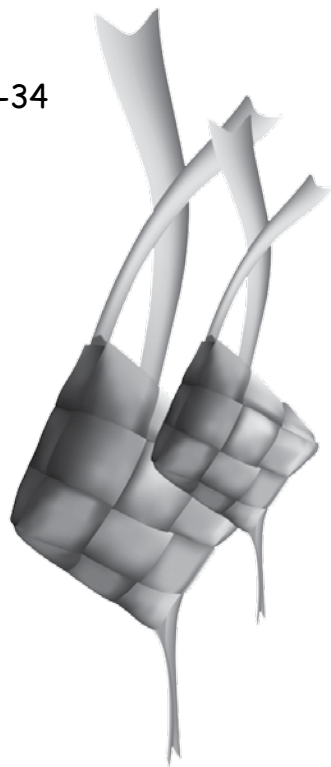


Hari Raya Puasa

Spiritual food: Mark 12: 28-34

Have you gone to visit your Muslim friends during this special time, or at least wished them 'Selamat Hari Raya Puasa'?

Muslims celebrate Hari Raya Puasa after they have finished their one month of fasting. In Malaysia, Muslims start the day by wearing new clothes and going to mosques early in the morning for prayers, and then visiting the graves of those who have passed away. The young will ask for forgiveness from their elders and they will have an 'open house' where relatives and friends come to visit. There is plenty of good food, and they also give packets of money to children. Overall, it is a happy and joyful occasion for Muslims.



Pray for Malaysian Muslims:

- Pray for God to bless our Muslim friends.
- Pray that they will also experience the promise of Jubilee.





A widow with no food

Let's come back to Elijah and the brook. After the brook had dried up... **what now?**

In the bible, it shows that God was faithful and gave Elijah a way out. God told him: "Go at once to Zarephath of Sidon and stay there. I have commanded a widow in that place to supply you with food."

Elijah did as God commanded him: he went to Zarephath... and he met a widow there. When he saw the widow, he called to her and asked, "Would you bring me a little water in a jar so I may have a drink?"

As she was going to get it, he called, "And bring me, please, a piece of bread."



When Elijah asked this, the widow replied, "I don't have any bread - only a handful of flour in a jar and a little oil in a jug. I am gathering a few sticks to take home and make a meal for myself and my son, that we may eat it - and die."

This situation did not sound hopeful - the widow God had sent Elijah to had

almost no food and water left...and even worse, she was going to make her **LAST** meal and then prepare herself to die!

Elijah however, did not let this discourage him - he showed great faith by telling her, "Don't be afraid. Go home and do as you have said. But first make a small cake of bread for me from what you have and bring it to me, and then make something for yourself and your son. For this is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: 'The jar of flour will not be used up and the jug of oil will not run dry until the day the Lord gives rain on the land'.

The widow followed his instructions, and true enough, God kept to His word and provided food for all three of them!

"It's not easy being me"

Now Elijah had food and water, things must be all well with him, right?

Not exactly. Elijah met with yet another challenge during his stay. A very unfortunate thing happened; the son of the widow started getting very sick... so sick that he actually stopped breathing and died.

Now, this was not a very good thing to happen - after all the widow had done for Elijah, letting him stay in the house and providing food for him, her son had died!

In her grief, the widow said to Elijah, "What do you have against me, man of God? Did you come to remind me of my sin and kill my son?"

At this point, it was probably a confusing situation for Elijah. God had provided food and water for him through a poor widow and her son, and had saved all three of them from death. NOW, for no good reason, the son of the widow had died! And even worse, the widow was very unhappy and was blaming him for the death of her son!

Imagine you are Elijah.

- **What would you say to the widow?**
- **What would you say to God?**

Discuss this with your COMBO partner.

This was a real challenge for Elijah, and he probably felt again, "It's not easy being me".

What did Elijah do?

He took the widow's son to a room and started crying to God. He said, "O Lord my God, have you brought tragedy also upon this widow I am staying with, by causing her son to die?"

In this prayer, it shows that Elijah was going through a lot of difficulty. He probably could feel how much Israel was suffering because of the famine, and felt depressed that even the widow's son whom God had been providing food for had not escaped death.

Here again, we can see that it can be so frustrating and difficult even though we know God is with us. Even Elijah, the great prophet of God, felt this way.

In desperation, Elijah stretched himself out on the boy three times, and cried out to God: "O Lord my God, let this boy's life return to him!" In the bible it says, the Lord heard Elijah's cry, and the boy's life returned and he lived. Elijah picked up the child and gave him to his mother, saying, "Look, your son is alive!"

From this account of Elijah and the widow's son, we can learn a valuable thing: When things are difficult and frustrating while we are serving God, we must learn to CRY OUT to Him. God hears our cries, and He will provide us with a way out.



Week 3: Hope of Jubilee For Sabah

*This week, we will pray for the **Hope of Jubilee to come to Sabah**. There are many challenges that Sabah faces, and with so many problems, it is easy to feel that things will not get better. **However, let's pray with faith and courage**. Just as Elijah started small, let us also push forward to grow in our faith and courage in God.*

*Let us also pray that **Christians will have great faith and courage** in praying for Sabah. They may be outnumbered by the problems, but it only takes one representative of the Living God to bring great change to Sabah!*



Illegal Immigrants

Spiritual food: Psalms 106:3

Sabah has a huge problem of many illegal immigrants staying in the state. Illegal immigrants are foreigners who come into the country without the permission of the authorities. In Sabah, about two out of every 10 people are illegal immigrants. Right now, there are about 52,000 children who do not belong to a proper country, and their numbers are growing. Most of these children are not allowed to study in government schools and are often found working in fish markets or as shoe shine boys in the streets.

The main reason for this problem is that the government does not take the problem seriously and does not try hard to stop it from happening. However, the people in Sabah are now asking for an official body - the Royal Commission of Inquiry - to start doing something about the problem.

Pray for Sabah:

- Pray that the Royal Commission of Inquiry is set up quickly.
- Pray for the government to be stricter in stopping illegal immigrants from coming into Sabah.
- Pray that this problem will be solved in a way that is fair to both Sabahans and illegal immigrants.





Land Issues

Spiritual food: Psalms 140:12

Sabah Native land (land belonging to the natives of Sabah) is not properly protected by the government.

There are two major problems that happen:

- 1 Normally, after some time of farming on land, it should be left to rest for five to seven years so it can become fertile again. However, this need is seldom recognized and the government allows big companies to develop the land. Some of this land is native land, and this is unfair to Sabah natives.
- 2 Besides that, the law states that when there are plans to develop a piece of land, notices should be posted to nearby communities for complaints to be made in case the land is native land. This process is often not done and the natives of Sabah only get to know about the development when company bulldozers arrive.

Pray for Sabah Natives:

- Pray that there will be justice in this land issue.
- Pray that a fair solution will be given.
- Pray that those fighting for native land rights will have wisdom, courage and favour from God.





Lack of development

Spiritual food: Isaiah 10: 1-2

Did you know that when Malaysia was formed in 1963, Sabah was seen as the richest partner in terms of resources among the four partners of Malaysia (Sarawak, Peninsular Malaysia, Singapore). Today, Sabah ranks as the poorest state in Malaysia.

- **Poor families:** There are 16,753 poor families and 15,293 hardcore poor families in Sabah.
- **Lack of piped-water:** About 40% of Sabah's land is still without piped-water compared to 10% in Peninsula Malaysia.
- **Lack of electricity:** About 20% of Sabah is without electricity compared to only 0.3% in Peninsula Malaysia.

Even with these problems, Sabah is only given **a very small amount of money** for development compared to other states in Malaysia.

Pray for Sabah:

- Pray that the authorities in Sabah will not be corrupt.
- Pray for Christian government leaders who will take care of the poor.
- Pray that Sabahans will rise up and speak out against these problems.



Social problems

Spiritual food: Isaiah 51: 4-5

Social problems are another issue in Sabah. Among these problems are prostitution, gambling and broken families.

- Sabah is one of the meetings points in Malaysia where girls are brought into the country as prostitutes.
- Many Sabahans borrow money for gambling from loan sharks, which leads to many problems in their own families.
- Sabah has the highest number of single mothers in the country.

Pray for Sabah:

- Pray that the government will start making real changes to fix these social problems.
- Pray that churches will rise up to help the government in solving these social problems.





Education

Spiritual food: Philippians 4:19

Today, we will pray for good education in Sabah.

There are a few things that affect the education of Sabahan children:

- There are not enough English teachers.
- Sometimes, there are teachers who are not serious about their work and sometimes skip school!
- About 100 schools in the interior of Sabah are flooded whenever there is continuous heavy rain. This affects about 9,000 school children.

Pray for Sabah:

- Pray for more English teachers in Sabah.
- Pray that teachers in Sabah will have good values and take their work very seriously.
- Pray for more Christian teachers who want to make a change in education.
- Pray that there will be a good solution to schools affected by floods.





Religious freedom

Spiritual food: Psalms 46:1-3, 10-11

When Malaysia was formed, an agreement was made with Sabah that there will be religious freedom in the state. In this agreement, it is stated that although Islam is the national religion of Malaysia, it is not the state religion of Sabah. So, everyone in Sabah has the right to choose his or her religion.

Pray for Sabah:

- Right now, religious freedom for all races is not practised in Sabah. Pray that this law in Sabah will be respected.
- Pray for protection for those who have become Christians in Sabah.





The Great Showdown!

Let's do a Role Play this week! You and your Combo Partner can each take two roles.

NARRATOR
ELIJAH

PROPHETS OF BAAL
PEOPLE OF ISRAEL

1. For each role, choose ONE ITEM that fits you. E.g. Elijah - wear a blanket around your shoulders as your prophet's cloak; Prophets of Baal - hold a broom as a spear; People of Israel - hold a cup showing how thirsty you are; Narrator - hold a bottle as your microphone.
2. READ your line(s) when it's your turn. (Make sure you're standing up. You can add in any actions to make your role better.)

Narrator : After three long years, God asked Elijah to present himself to King Ahab, and then He would send rain on the land. Elijah obeyed God and went to meet King Ahab. When King Ahab met Elijah, King Ahab called him a troublemaker, but Elijah said...

Elijah : I have not made trouble for Israel, but you and your father's family have. You have abandoned the Lord's commands and have followed the Baals!

Narrator : Elijah was very bold in telling the King his sin and pointing out that the King was responsible for all the suffering in

Israel. Elijah continued to say...

Elijah : Now summon the people from all over Israel to meet me on Mount Carmel. And bring the 450 prophets of Baal and the 400 prophets of Asherah, who eat at Jezebel's table!

Narrator : So Ahab sent word throughout all Israel and assembled the prophets on Mount Carmel. Elijah went before the people of Israel and said...

Elijah : **(Say to the people of Israel)**... How long will you waver between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him; but if Baal is God, follow him!

People of Israel : (Stare blankly at Elijah. Don't say anything)

Elijah : **(Look frustrated)**... I am the ONLY ONE of the Lord's prophets left, but Baal has 450 prophets! Get two bulls for us. Let them choose one for themselves, and let them cut it into pieces and put it on the wood but not set fire to it.

I will prepare the other bull, and put it on the wood but not set fire to it. Then you call on the name of your god, and I will call on the name of the Lord.

The god who answers by fire - He is God!

People of Israel : Ahhh... what you say is good!
(nod your head and give a thumbs up)

Elijah : **(Speak to the Prophets of Baal)** ... Choose one of the bulls and prepare it FIRST, since there are SO MANY OF YOU. Call on the name of your god, but do not light the fire.

Prophets of Baal : (Take an imaginary bull, cut it into pieces, and put it on some wood. Start shouting...)

O Baal, answer us!! O Baal, answer us!!
(Dance around the altar. Continue shouting...)
O Baal, answer us!! O Baal, answer us!!

Narrator : The Prophets of Baal called on the name of Baal from morning till noon. At noon, Elijah began to taunt them...

Elijah : Shout louder! Surely he is a god! Maybe he is deep in thought, or busy, or traveling! Maybe he is sleeping and must be woken up!

Prophets of Baal : (Shout louder)

O Baal, answer us!! O Baal, answer us!!

(Pretend to cut yourselves with swords and spears. Continue shouting...)

O Baal, answer us!! O Baal, answer us!!

Narrator : Mid-day passed, and they continued their frantic prophesying until the time for the evening sacrifice. But there was no response; no-one answered, no-one paid attention. Then it was Elijah's turn.

Elijah : (Pretend to build an altar with stones. Dig a large drain around the altar, arrange the wood, cut the bull into pieces, and place it on the wood. Then, command the people of Israel...)

Fill four jars with water and pour it on the offering and on the wood!

People of Israel: (Pretend to pour water on the altar)

Elijah : Do it again!

Narrator : Elijah ordered the people to do this three times. The water ran down around the altar and even filled the large drain. Then Elijah stepped forward and said...

Elijah : O LORD, God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, let it be known today that you are God in Israel and that I am your servant and have done all these things at your command.

Answer me, O Lord, answer me, so these people will know

that you, O Lord, are God, and that you are turning their hearts back again.

Narrator : Then, the fire of the Lord fell and burned up the sacrifice, the wood, the stones and the soil, and also licked up the water in the trench!

People of Israel : (Fall down flat on the ground with your face touching the floor)



The Lord - he is God! The Lord - he is God!

Elijah : Seize the prophets of Baal! Don't let anyone get away!

People of Israel : (Catch the Prophets of Baal)

Narrator : The Prophets of Baal were seized and they were killed by the people of Israel.

People of Israel : (Pretend to kill the Prophets of Baal)

~~~ The End ~~~

Did you have fun?? I hope you did, and also remembered the story well.

In this remarkable event, Elijah completely turned the people of Israel around – from worshipping Baal to worshipping the Living God. It was one against 450... he was hopelessly outnumbered! And yet, he could speak louder than all of them.

What gave Elijah such great faith and courage?

First, he was doing God's will of course – he didn't act on what he thought was best, but he received God's command to face up to King Ahab, which led to this great showdown.

However, there was also a second reason. Even before all this had happened, Elijah had learnt to have faith and courage. When God asked him to tell King Ahab that there would be no rain in Israel, he took courage and obeyed God. When God told him that the ravens would bring him food by the brook, he had faith that it would happen and obeyed God. When God told him to leave the brook to go to Zarephath so a widow could provide for his needs, he believed and did what God asked. When the son of the widow died during his stay with them, he had faith that God could bring him back to life and God did.

As we can see, great faith & courage do not come overnight. It comes when we choose to believe God, and then be brave enough to obey Him every step of the way. Bit by bit, our faith and courage grows as we see that we CAN trust God and that He is faithful.



Week 4: Hope of Jubilee for Peninsular

*This week, we will be praying for **Peninsular Malaysia**. As we pray and commit Peninsular Malaysia to God, let us remember that a stubborn “Pray-er” is an effective “Pray-er”!*

Let us keep believing and asking God for His presence in Peninsular Malaysia so that a real change will come!



The Monarchy

Spiritual food: Psalms 2:13

In Malaysia, the King is a symbol of power, authority and government. Although he is not the head of the government, he has official roles and responsibilities to fulfill, and also has the power to make decisions in certain cases. The King is appointed by a Conference of Rulers in Peninsular Malaysia and does not 'inherit' the throne. Our current King is Seri Paduka Baginda Yang di-Pertuan Agong Almu'tasimu Billahi Muhibbuddin Tuanku AlHaj Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah Ibni AlMarhum Sultan Badlishah.

Pray for the Monarchy:

- Pray that God will bless our King.
- Pray that our King will fulfill his responsibilities wisely and justly.
- Pray that our King will speak and act for all Malaysians.





Parliament

Spiritual food: Leviticus 19:15

The Malaysian Parliament plays an important role in our country because it has the authority to make laws and to decide on money matters in Malaysia.

The Parliament is made up of two parts: the Senate (Dewan Negara) and the House of Representatives (Dewan Rakyat). These Senators and Members of Parliament are given their authority for up to five to six years, which is a long time.

Pray for Malaysia:

- Pray that the Parliamentarians will have a good conscience and will make laws that are fair.
- Pray that they will have courage to speak up if the government is unfair.
- Pray that they will have wisdom to make decisions that will be good for our country.





The Civil Service

Spiritual food: Ecclesiastes 10:17

The Malaysian Civil Service is a very big part of the government. It has many employees...1.2 million of them!... and they cover 28 types of services. Their numerous duties include taking care of the public's interest, ensuring safety, and developing the community. They are the part of the government that carries out the set laws and initiatives.

It is important that the civil service is loyal to public interests and should also give fair advice to their superiors. The majority of the civil service servants are Malay.

Pray for Malaysia:

- Pray that God will bless employees in the civil service.
- Pray that the civil service will do their work well and uprightly.
- Pray that more job opportunities will be given to non-Malay racial groups so that the civil service will be fairly representative of all races.





The Orang Asli

Spiritual food: Isaiah 61:18

Today, let us commit the Orang Asli to God. **The Orang Asli are the native minority people of Peninsular Malaysia.** They can be divided into three large groups: Negrito, Senoi and Proto-Malay. These three groups can be further divided into 18 sub-groups.

In the early 1950's, the Orang Asli were introduced to basic health facilities and education. During this time, a law - The Aboriginal Peoples Ordinance - was made to protect the Orang Asli's rights. It was a good step made by the government because they were taking responsibility to protect the Orang Asli.

Although this Act (or law) gives some rights to the Orang Asli, there are some major weaknesses. The Act actually allows the authorities to order any Orang Asli community to leave an area, which takes them away from their original homes. Besides that, one person - the Director-General of the Orang Asli Development Department (JAKOA) - has the final say in all matters that has to do with the management of the Orang Asli. Because the law is made this way, the Orang Asli have almost no say in the decisions made by JAKOA. Let us pray today for God to protect the rights and lives of the Orang Asli.

Pray for the Malaysian Orang Asli:

- Pray that there will be a major change in Orang Asli laws so that they will have rights over their own land and affairs.
- Pray that their status and rights will be included in the Federal Constitution (the highest law in Malaysia).
- Pray that Orang Asli children will do extremely well in their studies and work so that they will have the knowledge to speak up and protect their own community.





MERDEKA DAY

Spiritual food: Deuteronomy 16:20

Today is an important day - it is the day Peninsular Malaysia (then Malaya) gained independence from the British! As a nation standing on our own, Malaysia has made so much progress. Today, Malaysia has become one of the leading nations in Asia.

While we are grateful to God for our independence and progress, we have much to pray for. We need to pray for the problems we are facing right now: corruption, wrong use of power, irresponsibility, social problems, racial and religious stress.

These problems need to be dealt with or we will lose everything we have gained as a nation.

Let us commit Malaysia to God today!

Pray for Malaysia:

- First, thank God for blessing Malaysia all these years.
- Pray that God will put a stop to all unrighteous behavior and attitudes in our nation.
- Pray that God will continue to bless Malaysia.





Malays

Spiritual food: Proverbs 10:22

Today, we will be praying for Malays. Malays are the largest ethnic group in Peninsular Malaysia, comprising about 67% of the population! As the majority people, they largely control the government administration.

By law, all Malays are to be Muslims. They are not allowed by law to change their religion. It is also against the law to witness to Malays. Besides that, if a non-Malay marries a Malay, the non-Malay **MUST** become a Muslim. Children automatically become Muslim if one or both of their parents are Muslim.

Malays are generally a tolerant, friendly, hospitable and helpful people. They are also an artistic people who love music and cultural dance.

However, there are some Malays who feel that their rights are being threatened.

Pray for our Malay friends:

- Pray that God will bless the Malays.
- Pray that the Hope of Jubilee will come to the Malays - in every part of their life.





Elijah: A Stubborn "Pray-er"



Last week, we looked at what happened at the **GREAT SHOWDOWN** between Elijah and the Prophets of Baal. Now, Israel was ready for change.

Elijah knew what he had to do now. He said to King Ahab: "Go, eat and drink, for there is the sound of heavy rain."

Rain was finally coming back to Israel after three years!

King Ahab did as Elijah told him and went to eat and drink. Elijah then climbed to the top of Mount Carmel and began to pray for rain.

Wait... if Elijah went to the top of Mount Carmel to pray for rain, it meant that... there was no rain yet at this point!

Take 5 minutes. Discuss this with your Combo partner:

Imagine you are Elijah. You have just told King Ahab that there will be heavy rain. However, there is no sign of even one cloud in the sky. Give three words to explain how you feel.

After you have discussed your feelings (whether good or bad), continue reading.

What did Elijah do in this situation?

Well, he went up to Mount Carmel and **prayed**. After praying, he asked his servant to go and look towards the sea to see if there were any clouds. His servant obeyed, but came back to Elijah saying he saw... nothing.

Elijah asked his servant to go out and look towards the sea again. His servant did that, and came back a second time, saying the same thing: There was nothing to see.

Again, Elijah asked his servant to go out and look towards the sea.

Again, his servant did what Elijah asked, and again, he came back saying the same thing: There is nothing to see.

Take 10 minutes. Do this activity with your Combo partner:

Person A: Ask Person B to go out of the room to do something for you.
“Please could you go out and check to see if _____”
(E.g. If the postman has sent a letter.)

Person B: Go out of the room. Check on whatever Person A has asked you to do.

[Person A – ask Person B to do the same thing 3 times]

After the activity, discuss this together.

Person B – how did you feel when Person A **asked you** to do something three times?

Person A – how did you feel **asking** Person B to do the same thing 3 times?

You know, both Elijah and his servant probably felt the same way you did.

However, did Elijah give up at this point?

The bible says that he did not. Elijah had such great faith that God would do as He had promised. He sent his servant out again to look towards the sea ... another four times. On the **seventh time**, the servant came back and reported: "A cloud as small as a man's hand is rising from the sea".

That was enough for Elijah. He ordered his servant, "Go and tell King Ahab, 'Hitch up your chariot and go down before the rain stops you'".

As his servant did as Elijah ordered, the sky grew black with clouds, the wind rose, and a heavy rain came. Here, it is recorded that the power of God came upon Elijah and he ran **AHEAD** of King Ahab all the way to a place called Jezreel.

There was rain again in Israel!

Are you a stubborn "Pray-er"?

Elijah was... and he kept on praying until he saw what God had promised.



Week 5: Hope of Jubilee for Sarawak

*This week, we will be praying for **Sarawak's needs**.
Let us pray that God will **meet these needs and
be their Strength**. Truly, He is our strength in our
weakness. May the Hope of Jubilee come upon
Sarawak!*



Transforming the Community

Spiritual food: Matthew 5:16

God is doing a special work in the hearts of some Christian leaders in Sarawak. They are beginning to see that it is important to reach out and bring good change to the community and NOT JUST the church. They are starting to seek God's calling in many areas; family, education, business, politics, media, entertainment.

Let us continue to pray that God will give Sarawakian Christians a heart for their community!

Pray for Sarawak:

- Christian leaders will continue to receive direction from God so they know how to touch the community.
- God will give them wisdom on how to bring good change in the many different areas.
- Church leaders will be united in community work.
- More and more Christians in Sarawak will bring good change not only in church but in the community.





Christian Leaders

Spiritual food: Joshua 1:7

Although Sarawak has good Christian leaders, it is difficult for them to unite all Christians from different denominations and Christian groups. This is because there are many differences between these groups in terms of mindset and culture.

There is a real need for Sarawakian Christian leaders who are able to influence and unite all Christians in the state. There needs to be huge growth in their capacity as leaders, and we must pray that God will raise up such leaders.

Pray for Sarawak:

- God will provide leaders who can unite all Christians in Sarawak.
- These leaders will be God-fearing and humble.
- These leaders will receive great spiritual authority from God to carry out His purposes in Sarawak.





Christians in Sarawak will be united

Spiritual food: John 17:23

Since the time missionaries came to Sarawak and started new churches, there has been a lot of growth as different Christian groups have worked hard in building their own church and in doing mission work. However, they communicated very little with each other and so, there is a lack of unity in the Christian community.

In recent years, the need for unity has become more important because of larger community needs. Some of these needs are:

- To have religious freedom.
- To have a good government.
- To get rid of poverty.

These are real challenges and require strong unity among Christians so they can work together and have a strong voice.

Pray for Sarawak:

- Christians will not let their differences divide them.
- Christians will seek to build friendships with one another.
- Christians will work well together to champion these needs.





Young People

Spiritual food: Matthew 6:33

In Sarawak, from the bigger cities like Kuching and Miri to the smaller towns and villages like Serian and Lachau, young people have this in common: connection to cyberspace with access to Facebook, YouTube, Twitter and the world wide web. Most of them also aim to have good results in their exams, get into university, and then secure a job that is considered 'good' and highly paid in society.

To be able to guide the youth successfully in walking closely with God and fulfilling God's purpose in their life, the church needs to know how to connect with the young people today in 'their world'.

Pray for Sarawak:

- Pray that parents, pastors and leaders will understand what the young people need and struggle with so they can guide them well.
- Pray that young people will see that not only their own studies and careers are important, but that standing up for truth and justice is also important.
- Pray that young Sarawakians will be willing to come back to work in their state.





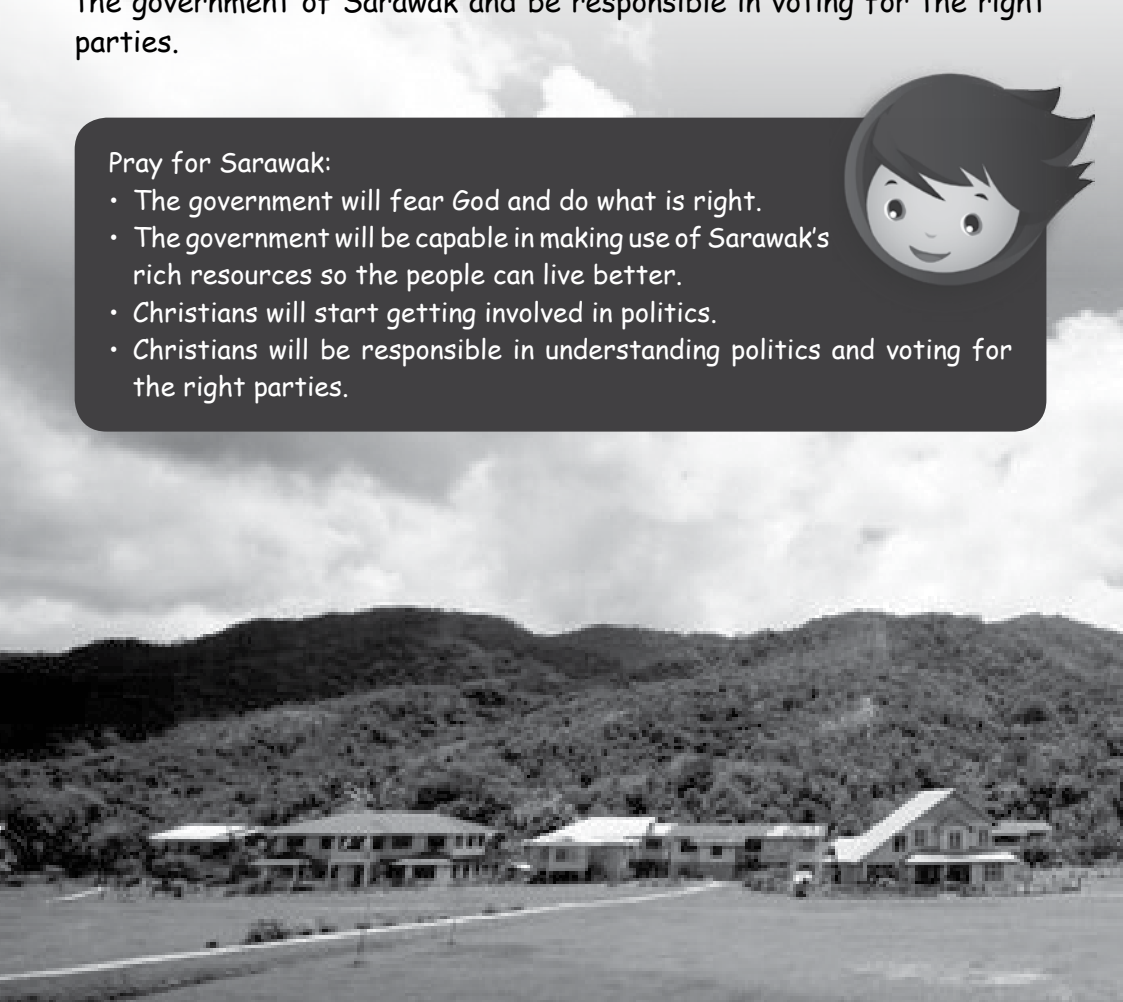
Righteous Government

Spiritual food: Isaiah 1:17

Sarawak is a state of rich resources but also undeveloped small towns and villages. After 49 years of being part of Malaysia, we need to pray for a righteous government that does what is right and takes care of the needs of the people. We must also pray that churches will speak up on political concerns. Christians need to be more interested in the government of Sarawak and be responsible in voting for the right parties.

Pray for Sarawak:

- The government will fear God and do what is right.
- The government will be capable in making use of Sarawak's rich resources so the people can live better.
- Christians will start getting involved in politics.
- Christians will be responsible in understanding politics and voting for the right parties.





Good Economy

Spiritual food: Proverbs 28:2

Sarawak's economy is based on natural resources, and some of the important areas that contribute to the economy are mining, timber, agriculture, tourism, construction, manufacturing and services.

Although Sarawak has so many natural resources, there are many Sarawakians living on small salaries and are considered poor!

Pray for Sarawak:

- Pray that the government will provide education, facilities and rewards fairly so that there will be more businesses in Sarawak.
- Pray for more jobs so that professional Sarawakians will be more interested in coming back.
- Pray for more Christian businesses to will help the Sarawak economy.



Elijah – scared?!



Elijah??! Yes, Elijah, the great prophet – the man who called fire down from heaven, who had great faith that God would send rain, who outran King Ahab and his chariots – the great prophet was ... **scared!**

It's hard to believe... especially after what we've read and learned about him in the last few weeks, but it's true. It is recorded in the bible that Elijah went through a time of being terrified, and he actually ran for his life.

Who was he scared of?

After Elijah had done all these things, King Ahab told his wife Jezebel that Elijah had killed all her prophets. Jezebel was of course very upset and sent a messenger to Elijah. Her message was this:

"May the gods deal with me severely, if by this time tomorrow I do not make your life like one of these prophets you killed".



When Elijah heard this, he ran far away into the desert. He was afraid of what Jezebel would do to him! This was the lowest point of Elijah's time as a prophet. He sat under a tree, and started praying, but do you know what he prayed? He prayed that he would die! He told God, "I have had enough Lord, take my life. I am no better than my ancestors".

After praying this, he lay down under the tree and fell asleep.

Imagine you are walking by and you see a man sleeping under a tree. You wake him up, and he is unhappy with you. He says, "Leave me alone! I am here, waiting to die!"

Would you believe that he was a great man of God? Would you believe that he had once called down fire from heaven and had challenged 450 prophets in a great showdown?

I think you would find it hard to believe. How can a man of God be like that?

Take 10 minutes. Discuss this with your Combo partner:

- Who is a man of God that you know? (It could be a pastor, a teacher, a friend, or someone you've read about.)
- Why do you admire him or her?
- Have you ever imagined that he or she could be like Elijah, desperate and wanting to give up? Why?

What Elijah shows us is that a man of God is human also, just like everyone else. There is something here we can all learn from. Even though we are Christians and have God in us, we also get scared, unsure and sometimes feel like giving up. It's important to realise that we are human and have our weakness. God sees that, and lends us His strength.

If you read on, you can see how God responded to Elijah's moment of weakness.

In the bible, it says that when Elijah laid down under the tree and fell asleep, an angel appeared and touched him, saying: "Get up and eat".

Elijah looked around and there, just next to him, was a cake of bread baked over hot coals, and a jar of water. He ate and drank and then laid down again.

The angel of the Lord came back a second time, and touched him, saying: "Get up and eat, for the journey is too much for you."

Elijah got up again, and ate and drank. After that, strengthened by food, he travelled for 40 days and 40 nights until he reached Mount Horeb. There, he went into a cave and spent the night.

Discuss this with your Combo partner:

- Was God angry with Elijah for being depressed and scared?
- What did God do to make Elijah feel better?
- Why do you think God provided Elijah with what He did?

This part of Elijah's experience is very important to learn from. We can see that God was faithful in taking care of Elijah even though he was weak. God provided for his physical needs with food and water, and strengthened him. We can see here that God is a very loving and also practical God, and is patient with us.



Week 6: Jubilee & National Concerns!



Reducing Poverty

Spiritual food: Deuteronomy15:11; Leviticus19:10

Being very poor is a very difficult situation to live in - there is not enough food and clothes and no proper roof over a person's head. For those with families, the situation is even harder as they have many more mouths to feed. Hunger, cold, sickness and stress makes every day a struggle, and those in this situation often feel unhappy and hopeless.

Christians need to continue to pray against poverty, and do everything we can to help the poor. God's heart is for the poor, and this year of Jubilee, let us pray that God will bring a great freedom to the poor and bring healing to their pain.

Pray for the Malaysian Poor:

- Pray that God will provide for the poor and heal their pain.
- Pray that the government will protect and provide for the poor.
- Pray that the church will continue caring for the poor and bringing them hope and help.
- Pray that there will be many opportunities this Year of Jubilee for the poor to earn a better living.





No more Corruption

Spiritual food: Proverbs 28:13

Corruption happens when a person who is given authority uses it in the wrong way for his or her own benefit. More and more Malaysians are beginning to realise that corruption is wrong, which is a good sign. Let us thank God for that!

However, corruption is still a major problem in our country - it includes such things as the authorities holding back important information from the public, and giving big projects to personal friends when it should be open to everyone.

We must continue to pray against corruption in our country so that our society will be strong in good values and our country can truly progress!

Pray for Malaysia:

- Pray that there will be a culture of righteousness in Malaysia.
- Pray that the government will be able to push for a corrupt-free society.
- Pray that the church will be a good example and that the way Christians live everyday will challenge others to live right.





No more Unfair treatment!

Spiritual Food: Isaiah 19:20

Many of the Orang Asli in Peninsular Malaysia & the Bumiputera in Sabah and Sarawak are not treated with fairness. As we've prayed earlier, the Orang Asli face many problems with their land - many are not recognized as owners of their own land or are given very few rights to their land. The Bumiputera of Sabah and Sarawak also face similar problems. In the law, Bumiputera should enjoy special privileges, but there are some situations when this does not happen. When such unfairness occurs, there is a lot of difficulty, discomfort and anger because what should be given is taken away.

Today, let us pray for this group of Malaysians. Let us pray that God will bring fairness and justice to their situation & protect them from unfair treatment.

Pray for the Orang Asli & Bumiputera of Sabah and Sarawak:

- Pray that the government will be righteous and treat this group fairly, as they should
- Pray that God will raise capable leaders among this group so they can speak up for their people
- Pray that God will free this group from their burden & return their rights to them





Religious Freedom

Spiritual food: Psalms 27: 1-6

In Malaysia, everyone has the right to practice his or her own religion freely. Although different people have different religions, we have agreed to accept and respect one another's religions.

However, in recent years, there have been more cases of religious intolerance. Some unfair conditions have been placed on those practising their religion, which disrespects the agreement of religious freedom.

We need to pray that Religious Freedom is respected & protected in Malaysia.

Pray for Malaysia:

- Pray that religious freedom will continue to be respected.
- Pray that God will protect and free those who are victims of religious intolerance.
- Pray that the church will stand boldly against religious intolerance.





Racial Unity

Spiritual food: Ephesians 4:2; Colossians 3:14

How many friends of different races do you know?

Malaysia is a country of many races and ethnicities, and we all have our own cultural practices - e.g. Hari Raya Puasa, Chinese New Year, Deepavali, Hari Gawai - but we have one important thing in common - we are all Malaysians.

We need to continue to pray for peace and harmony between races in our country. Racial unity takes years to build, but if it is not carefully looked after, it can become undone.

Let us pray that in this Year of Jubilee, God will enable Malaysians to accept, respect and love one another.

Pray for Malaysia:

- Pray that Malaysians will understand how important it is to **CHOOSE** to accept, respect and love one another.
- Pray that there will be true unity between races.
- Pray that the church will be a good example of **UNITY** between races.





Celebrating a Truly Free Malaysia!

Spiritual food: Psalms 103: 6-12

How good and gracious is our God!
He is the One who ensures righteousness and justice
is given to the oppressed;
He is kind, slow to anger, and abounding in love!
He does not deal with us or repay us according to our sins...
for as high as the heavens are above the earth,
so great is His love for those who fear Him!

After praying and fasting for 40 days for the Hope of Jubilee to come to Malaysia, let us all remember this: **The Hope of Jubilee does not lie with us but with God!** It is He who will bring it to pass because He is good, gracious, compassionate, and abounding in love. He will bring about righteousness and justice to our country because it is important to Him!

As His church, we need to surrender Malaysia's future to Him. Let us work closely with Him as we continue to hear His heartbeat for the nation. **Like Elijah**, let us cry out to Him persistently for freedom, healing, righteousness and justice and all that Malaysia has lost - in this Year of Jubilee!

Pray for Malaysia:

- Pray that the church will place her full confidence in God.
- Pray for God's purpose to be fulfilled.
- Pray that Malaysia will enter into her Jubilee!





**You have finished the race!!!
Give your COMBO Partner a HIGH-5!!!**

**Thank you for honouring God
with your time, effort and heart.**

**God is PLEASED when His children
seek Him with all their heart!**



Let's come back to the **FINAL PART** of Elijah's story which takes place at Mount Horeb.

Last week, the last thing we read about Elijah was that he had traveled 40 days and 40 nights and finally reached Mount Horeb. There, he went into a cave and spent the night.

Now, on this mountain, God spoke to Elijah saying, "**What are you doing here, Elijah?**"

Elijah replied, "I have been very zealous for the Lord God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, broken down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too".

This was a reply that showed his attitude - Hey, it's not easy for me.

How? ...He was basically telling God that he had been a very faithful servant (how good he was). However, things were difficult and he was the only one left. Now, he was in a bad situation because the enemy was coming after him too.

Discuss this with your Combo partner:

Do you think what Elijah said was true?

(Was he a faithful servant? Were things really difficult for him? Was the enemy coming after him?)

What did God think? How did God answer Elijah?

Here, God used a very special way of answering Elijah. God said: "Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by."

Elijah obeyed and waited for God Himself to pass by. What was he to expect?

First, a great and powerful **WIND** came, tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks. Elijah looked on - but God was not in the wind.

Second, there was an **EARTHQUAKE**. Elijah looked on - but God was not in the earthquake.

Third, there was a **FIRE**. Elijah looked on - but God was not in the fire.

Finally, there was a gentle **WHISPER**. When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave.

Then, a Voice said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

Same question... and the same answer from Elijah:

"I have been very zealous for the LORD God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, broken down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too."

This time, God gave clear instructions to Elijah...

"Go back the way you came, and go to the Desert of Damascus. When you get there, anoint Hazael king over Aram. Also, anoint Jehu, son of

Nimshi as king over Israel, and anoint Elisha son of Shaphat to succeed you as prophet.

"Jehu will put to death any who escape the sword of Hazael, and Elisha will put to death any who escape the sword of Jehu. Yet I reserve 7000 in Israel - all whose knees have not bowed down to Baal, and all whose mouths have not kissed him".

What did Elijah learn from God's answer?

The First and MOST IMPORTANT thing: **Elijah learnt how to listen to God.**

In the middle of his trouble, when he was running for his life, terrified and scared... Elijah had looked at everything that was happening around him - Jezebel, a powerful queen, angry and determined to kill him... the Israelites, unfaithful to God and allowing Jezebel to kill God's prophets... himself, a prophet of God, speaking on God's behalf but the only one around with no other prophets in sight...

All these things were crowding in on his thoughts and he trembled at the thought of them. He looked at all these things, but he failed to see one thing - the MOST IMPORTANT thing - God.

Elijah had let everything around him take away his focus on God. In the gentle whisper, God was saying... Elijah, you need to stop looking around... be still... listen.

When Elijah finally heard God's voice under the noise of all the terrifying things that were going on around Him... he discovered that... **God was still there.**

This was Elijah's most important lesson.

What changed for Elijah when he heard God's voice?

When we look at God's answer, we see that Elijah received:

Direction - God told him: 'Go back the way you came'.

Obviously, Elijah was doing the wrong thing by running away. God had asked him twice what he was doing in the mountain. God was telling Elijah that he wasn't meant to be there! Elijah needed to go back to Israel to do the work God had asked him to do!

A solution from God on how to handle the bad situation in Israel.

God wanted him to anoint a new King and a new Prophet, which will set things right in Israel. King Ahab was not a good King, and God was replacing him.

Finally, correction of his attitude.

God corrected Elijah's self-pity and self-righteousness. He told Elijah that he was NOT the only one left - there were in fact 7000 others who were faithful and zealous for Him.

God is a very good and wise God. Throughout Elijah's journey, we can see God's heart. He dealt with Elijah patiently and let him recover by giving him food and water to drink. After Elijah was strong enough physically, God did not use force but kindness in correcting Elijah - He chose to speak to Elijah in a gentle whisper. In this gentle whisper, Elijah received direction, correction and a solution for all his problems.

Like Elijah, let us learn to be still and listen for God's voice. Then, we will see that GOD IS THERE and is faithful in providing for all our needs.

In James 5: 16b-18 it says:

The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective. Elijah was a man just like us. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops.

Are you a man / woman / boy / girl of God? It says in the bible that if you are, your prayer is powerful and effective. We can pray like Elijah, who was a righteous man. His prayers were heard even though as a man, he had weaknesses just like us. When he prayed earnestly that it would not rain, it did not rain on the land for three and a half years! Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops.

We too, can be Elijahs in our land. We can make a stand and pray earnestly for truth, justice, healing and freedom - the Hope of Jubilee - and God will hear our cries.

PAUSE!!

If you are not yet a Christian, but would like to be... please stop here. This is one of the most important decisions in your life, and I want you to think seriously about this. Even if you have grown up in a Christian family – your mom and dad are Christians, and you go to church – it still doesn't mean that you are a Christian if you haven't invited God into your life.

*Have you ever asked God to come into your heart?
Have you ever asked Him to be God of ALL your life
and not only a small part?*

If you want to invite Him into your heart, I would like to ask you to say this prayer with me. Will you pray this prayer out loud?

Dear Heavenly Father,

I thank you for making it possible for me to invite you into my life. Dear God, I want to give you my life. I want to trust you to take care of me, and I want to follow You all the days of my life.

I thank you that you love me, and you have already made it possible for me to come to you, through Your son, Jesus Christ. I thank you that he has taken away all my sins when he died on the cross.

I pray that every day, I will learn to love You more and to obey You. I also pray that I will be in Your presence, and that You will be there to lead me and guide me.

Please bring me along someone who would teach me and guide me so I can grow stronger in You.

In Jesus' name I pray, AMEN!

CONGRATULATIONS!!!!!!!

God has received you as His child! It is a day of rejoicing in Heaven, did you know that??

I want to encourage you to tell another Christian whom you know and trust (it can be your parents, Sunday School teacher, a friend) about your decision. Ask them to pray with you and help you grow in God!

Do you know what day is today?

It's Malaysia Day!

It is the day Malaysia was born.

It is also the day her Jubilee begins. Let us join our hearts and pray to bless her on her special day.

Dear Heavenly Father,

We THANK YOU for seeing both of us through the last 40 days. We want to commit and ask You to bless Malaysia on her Birthday.

We thank you for Malaysia, for you have given us this country. Please urge us to CONTINUE praying and crying out for our country. May Malaysia experience the Hope of Jubilee!!!

AMEN!!!





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