



I will build My church...
(Matt 16:18)



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40-Day Fast & Prayer 2014
(7 August - 15 September)

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Hello!

Dear Kids,

Welcome to the 40 days of Fasting and Prayer. I am glad that you have made the decision to come to God to pray and fast for our country. God treasures your prayers and He is the one who welcomes you here!

To kick start this prayer and fast, let's start with this question...

How is your relationship with Jesus?

Are you close to Him? Do you talk to Him everyday?

Do you feel He listens to you? Do you hear from Him?

What makes a difference in our Christian life is our relationship with Jesus. Although there are a lot of things that you do as a Christian – like going to church, singing songs, listening to bible stories, going for camps, inviting friends to church – there is actually only one thing that is important... your relationship with Jesus.



So how is your relationship with Jesus?

You can be honest... if you feel... ya, sometimes I do talk to Him but sometimes, I don't even feel like He's in my heart... you can say so. Everyone goes through the same thing, and many Christians struggle with their relationship with Jesus.

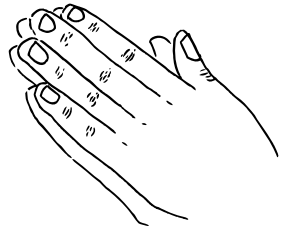
Why? Because we don't spend time with Him. We do other things that we think is important... like going to church, singing songs, listening to bible stories, bla bla bla... BUT, we don't spend time with Him! We think a quick prayer will do, or just prayers said in church together with friends or teachers.

But really, that is not enough.

You need to spend time with Jesus, praying and talking to Him, sitting at His feet to listen to what He has to say. That is what makes a difference in your life and heart as a Christian. Only then when you go to church, it will be for Jesus. When you sing songs, it will be to Him! When you listen to bible stories, you will be hearing Him speak to you. It is your relationship with Jesus that makes the difference because it makes everything else you do meaningful!



This year, let me encourage you to use this prayer and fast to grow close to Jesus. That is most important.



Let's pray this prayer together:

Dear Lord Jesus, I want to grow close to you. I thank you that you have made a way for me to come to you, to open my heart to you, and to give what is in it to you.

Thank you also for sharing your heart with me. Thank you that you put in my heart what is in yours as I pray, and I am able to understand how you feel.

These 40 days, help me to grow close to you. Teach me to spend time with you. Teach me to open my heart more to you. Teach me to hear from You, and help me to feel close to You so that I know in my heart that You are with me, listening to me as I pray.

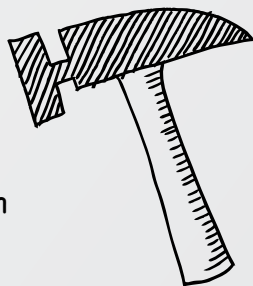
In Your precious name I pray, Amen.

If you prayed this prayer from your heart, God is happy! It is this attitude that will make these 40 days worthwhile.

Ok, so what will we be praying and fasting for this year?

The focus this year is **'I will build My Church'**.

Jesus declares in Matthew 16: 18 that He will build His church, and the gates of hell will not overcome it! Jesus Himself will build a strong church that will be able to stay strong even when under attack by the evil one.



This year, we will stand on Jesus' promise to build His church and ask Him to build churches in Malaysia that are **STRONG**.

Right now, our country has been facing problem after problem that puts Malaysia on rocky ground. At this time, the Malaysian Church must be **STRONG** so that we can pray with **POWER** for our country.

We will pray and fast that Malaysian churches will:

- Have a **close relationship** with Jesus
- Be **united**
- Have strength to face **troubles**
- Answer God's call to **disciple** others
- Focus on building **God's kingdom**
- **Shine** for God in Malaysia

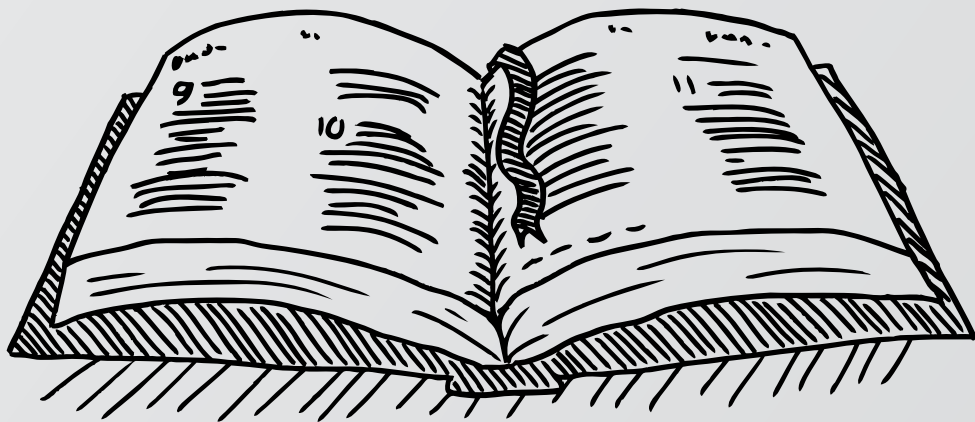
What does each week of prayer look like?

Each week, there will be one psalm for you to meditate on.

Meditating is thinking deeply about something... soaking in God's word so that it goes into your heart.

The Psalms is a special book in the bible because they are **actually prayers!** You can use the Psalms to help you pray to God, especially when you don't know where to start. There is no one correct way of praying the Psalms, but every week, there will be some suggestions to help you pray. You can do one suggestion every day before you start on the prayer points.

What is useful to remember is that you can make each Psalm YOUR prayer. Use the Psalm to draw your thoughts and heart to Jesus, and He will draw close to you.



Fasting

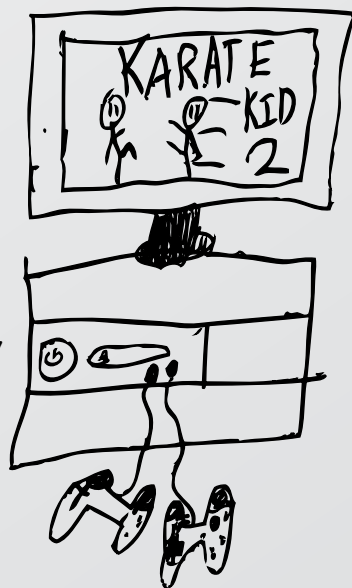
Fasting is a powerful way of drawing close to Jesus. When we fast, we are humbling ourselves and saying to God, 'I am serious about what I am praying for'.

There are a few ways to fast. You can:

- **Fast one meal** (e.g. breakfast, recess, lunch, or dinner).
- **Fast all your main meals and only drink liquid.**

(Do this only with your parents' permission. You can drink something nutritious or filling like Milo to keep your body strong).

- **Fast one type of food** (e.g. meat, vegetables, rice).
- **Fast a favourite food** (e.g. chocolate, rice, spaghetti).
- **Fast once a week** (maybe on Saturday, when there is no school).
- **Fast a favourite pastime** (e.g. going on Facebook, watching TV).

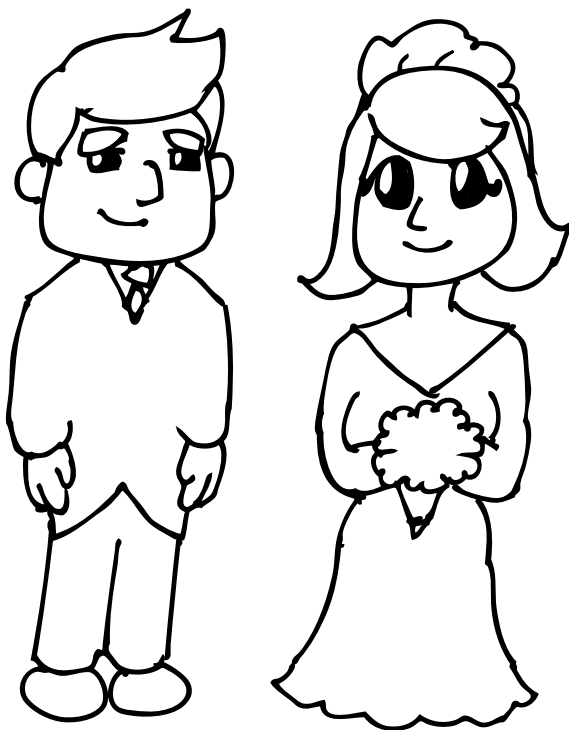


Whenever you are hungry or miss a favourite pastime desperately, keep your eyes on God. This is a time that will remind you that God is more important than what you eat or like!

Week 1: My Church (The Bride)

Love with a Passion!

The Bible describes us in many ways – as God's children, God's friends, God's faithful servants... but do you know we (the church) are also described as His bride?



A bride is a woman about to be married – on her wedding day, she is looking forward to be married to the One she loves! As the bride of Christ, are you looking forward to meeting Jesus, your bridegroom? Are you waiting for him, longing to be with Him?

When Jesus comes back, He is coming back for His bride – the Church, for whom He laid down His life. Are we ready to meet Him?

PRAYING A PSALM

This week, let us ask God to help us fix our eyes and heart on our bridegroom – Jesus! As a bride looks forward to marrying the One she loves, let us ask God to fill our hearts with excitement for our wedding day!



This week, we will meditate on **Psalm 45** – a wedding song. Use this Psalm as a way to know Jesus better. The best way to read a Psalm is to read it like it is your own words.

Here are some suggestions that you can use each day:

Day 1: Read the Psalm out loud.

What words are used to describe the bridegroom and bride?

Write them down.

Bridegroom: *E.g. Most excellent*

Bride: *E.g. Beauty*

Day 2: Can you 'draw' a picture of the bridegroom in your mind? Use your imagination!

Use these words to help you:

Sword, Horse, Arrows, Scepter, Oil of joy, Robes, Maidens of Honour, Royal bride

Imagine the bride going to meet the bridegroom. Can you play the scene in your mind like you're watching a video?

Use these words to help you:

Glorious, within her chamber, gown, beautiful wedding dress, led to the king, bridesmaids follow, led in with joy and gladness, enter the palace of the king.

Day 3: What are the good qualities of the bridegroom?

Name 3 benefits the bride will enjoy because of this wonderful marriage.

Day 4: Jesus is the bridegroom, and you (as part of the church) are His bride. Think about these questions.

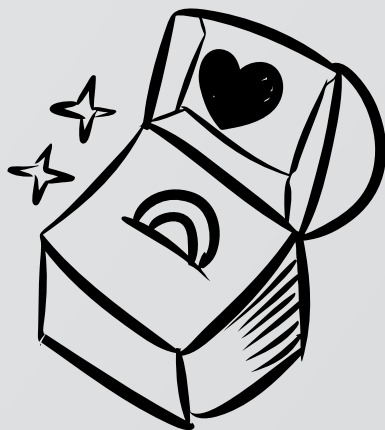
Have you ever thought about how majestic Jesus is?

As his bride, have you thought about how privileged you are?

Are you excited about your future?

Are you ready to meet the bridegroom?

Take the time today to praise Jesus for who He is and rejoice at how privileged you are.



Prayer Points



DAY 1

7 Aug

'Jesus must increase; I must decrease'

Spiritual food ~ John 3:22 – 30

Just like John, are you a bestman to Jesus? Do you want Jesus to receive the attention, or do you want it for yourself?

Today, let's pray that the church as Jesus' bride will be like John, letting the one she loves have the praise and attention. Pray that:

- Every Christian will be like John
- Every Christian will want Jesus' bride, the church, to grow.

DAY 2

8 Aug

We are Jesus' bride!

Spiritual food ~ Isaiah 62: 5

A wedding is a happy occasion, isn't it? The Bible tells us that the church is Jesus' bride... that is something to be joyful about!

Today, let's:

- Rejoice and thank God for His immensely great love for us.
- Pray God will open the eyes of every Christian to see that Jesus is the bridegroom who is excited about them, the bride!

DAY 3

9 Aug

Getting ready for Jesus

Spiritual food ~ Matthew 25: 1 – 13

As Jesus' bride, our attitude must be like the five wise virgins, not the five foolish ones! What do we do if the bridegroom seems 'late' for the wedding? Do we decide to take off our wedding dress and put on pyjamas instead? If the bridegroom suddenly arrives, imagine how panicky we will be if we are not ready!

Today, let's pray that:

- Christians will be prepared by living a pure and holy life that is pleasing to Him.
- Christians will keep Jesus' command to tell others that He loves them and came to earth to save them from their sins.



DAY 4

10 Aug

Being faithful to Jesus

Spiritual food ~ 2 Corinthians 11: 2

If two people love each other, they will be faithful. One of the most painful things for a lover is if his or her partner is unfaithful.... meaning, the partner decides to love someone else and does not keep their love true and pure.

Today, let's pray that the church will:

- Keep herself pure and faithful to Jesus and not love other things like personal fame or riches.
- Always remember how much Jesus loved the church by suffering and dying on the cross for her.



Week 2: Growing in Intimacy with Christ

Love deeply!

Last Saturday, we read the parable of the ten virgins who waited for the bridegroom to arrive. When he finally did arrive at midnight, the lamps they brought with them had dimmed and needed oil. The five wise virgins had brought extra oil, but the five foolish ones had no oil to fill their lamps. At this crucial moment, they asked the five wise virgins for some oil but were refused. With no oil and no other choice, they left and went to buy oil from a vendor. Sadly, when they came back, the bridegroom had already arrived and the wedding feast had started without them. When they made their way to the party, they found that the door was shut so they exclaimed from behind shut doors, 'Lord, Lord, open the doors for us!'. The bridegroom replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you'.

What a sad story for the five foolish virgins. This story is not a nice one to read, but there is an important message to heed for the church.

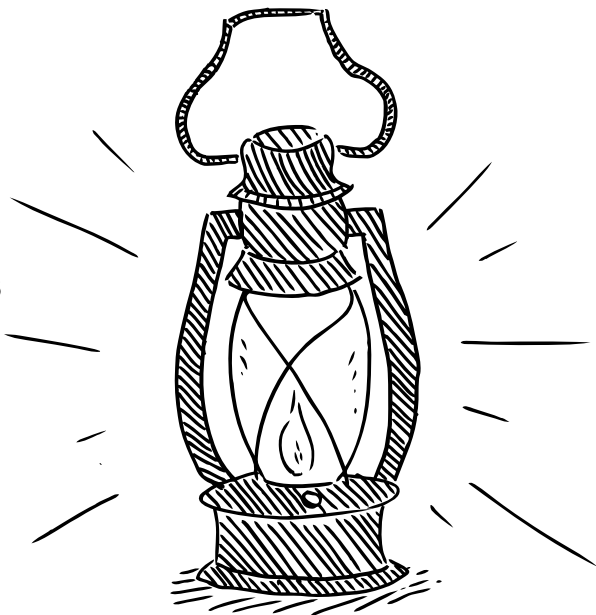
We, the church, are like the virgins, with everyone carrying a lamp. In order for our lamp to continue burning, we need to make sure we have enough oil.

Our lives are like the lamp.

Our purpose is to shine brightly for God while we are here on earth.

Our relationship with Jesus

is like the oil. We need to have a close relationship with Jesus so that our lives can shine brightly for God.



If we become careless and do not stay close to Jesus, we cannot shine brightly for God and we may even stop shining.

So how is your relationship with Jesus? Are you making sure you have enough oil?

This week, we will pray that the Malaysian Church will have a close relationship with Jesus.

PRAYING A PSALM

This week, let us meditate on Psalm 63.

Here are some suggestions that you can use each day:

Day 1

Read the Psalm out loud. What do you think the psalmist sounds like when he prays this psalm? Picture him praying this psalm.

Day 2

Has the psalmist experienced God? Where? What did he see about God that took his breath away?

Day 3

How much do you think the psalmist loves God? What part of his prayer stands out for you?

Day 4

What are the ways the psalmist uses to declare his love

for God?

Day 5

Do you think about God while you're lying on your bed at night?

The Psalmist thinks about God even when it's night time. What does this show about how much he loves God?

Day 6

Think about how much the psalmist trusts in God's protection. Imagine how he feels in his heart.

Day 7

Take your favourite part of this psalm and pray it to God.

Prayer Points



DAY 1

11 Aug

Loving God even when we're tested

Spiritual food ~ Genesis 22: 1 – 19

What God asked Abraham to do was not easy at all – to sacrifice his own son! But God was very, very pleased with Abraham because he loved and trusted God enough to obey Him even when it was painful, difficult or didn't make any sense. What do you do when your love and trust for God is tested? Do you continue to trust, love, praise and obey Him when things are not good? Today, let's:

- Think about how much God loves you. In Romans 8: 35-39, God's love for us is so powerfully explained. Ask God to help you see and understand how much He loves you.
- Ask God to help you love and trust Him just like Abraham did.

DAY 2

12 Aug

Choosing to focus on Jesus

Spiritual food ~ Luke 10: 38-42

We can be like Martha, distracted with doing things for Jesus, or we can be like Mary, choosing to give our attention to Him and to listen to what He says. What Mary chose is much better – taking time to listen to Jesus and to focus on Him. Today, let's:



- Ask God to help us choose what is better – to come to Him and learn from Him.
- Ask God to give us rest and peace when we spend time with Him.

DAY 3

13 Aug

Remaining in Jesus

Spiritual food ~ John 15: 5

Jesus is the vine, and we are the branches that grow out of the vine. Like the branches, if we are connected to Jesus, we will be able to grow and have fruit. If we are not connected to Jesus, how can we grow? We will have no life in us and will wither and die. Do you get your strength from Jesus? Today, let's:

- Thank Jesus that He gives us strength in everything.
- Ask God to help us to remain in Jesus – to worship Him, learn from Him and trust Him in everything.

DAY 4

14 Aug

Obeying His Word

Spiritual food ~ John 15: 7-8

Jesus' words remain in us when we obey what He says. Do you obey what Jesus teaches in the Bible? When we trust Jesus' words and obey them, we are doing God's will... He will answer our prayers, and we will be a 'growing' branch with lots of fruit! We will be blessed and will be a blessing to others. This is God's wonderful promise when we obey His word. Today, let's:

- Thank God for His life-giving word that guides us in the right way.
- Ask God to help us trust and obey His words.

DAY 5

15 Aug

Letting the Holy Spirit guide us

Spiritual food ~ John 14: 26

The Holy Spirit is our Great Helper – He lives in us when we believe in Jesus and repent of our sins. In everything that you do, ask the Holy Spirit to guide you – He will teach you and remind you of Jesus' words so you will be able to obey them! Today, let's:

- Ask the Holy Spirit to help us and guide us in everything we do – in what we say, what we think, and what we do.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to help us grow closer to Jesus.

DAY 6

16 Aug

Trusting in the Father's love

Spiritual food ~ Luke 15: 11-31

The best part of this story is when the unfaithful son decides to come back to his father to work as a servant. In the story, the father sees the son from far away, and runs towards him to welcome him home. How precious is the son to the father! Jesus told this story to help us understand this amazing truth – that the Father loves us even when we have done wrong because we are precious to Him! Do you know how precious you are to God?

Today, let's:

- Give thanks to God our Father who has been waiting for us to return to Him and welcomes us with open arms.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal the parts in our lives that we need to ask God for forgiveness, and to help us to come back to Him.



Being like good soil

DAY 7

17 Aug

Spiritual food ~ Matthew 13: 18-23

This parable talks about four types of seeds. What happened to these seeds? From what you've read today, fill in the blanks with your own words.

Types of Seed	What happened?
Seed sown along the path	The hearer does not understand the word and Satan snatches away the seed.
Seed on rocky ground	
Seed among thorns	
Seed on good soil	

There are many things that can keep us from growing with Jesus. Today, let's:

- Ask God to make our hearts like good soil – quick to understand what He says, faithful even when things are difficult, and focused on Jesus and not on our worries or riches.
- Ask God to show you anything in you that stops you from obeying Him. Invite Him to remove it so you can remain close to Him.



Week 3: The Church through Trials and Tribulations

Love even when it's Tough!

This week, we will be praying that the Malaysian church will stay **STRONG** in times of trouble.

The church of God will go through times of trouble. Jesus says in Matthew 15:19, "If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you."

Even though going through troubling times is difficult (of course!), we do not have to be afraid of these times because Jesus is our strength and His grace can pull us through.

Remember the oil that we must have? This oil that represents our close relationship with Jesus will enable us to stand strong in troubling times. What is greater than all the difficulties we face? Jesus' love! Like a bride who has her eyes fixed on the bridegroom, our relationship with Jesus will carry us through the storms.

PRAYING A PSALM

This week, let us meditate on Psalm 55.

Here are some suggestions that you can use each day:

Day 1

Read this psalm out loud. How do you think the psalmist sounds when he prays this prayer?

(v. 12-14) – this is what’s causing him pain. Have you felt betrayed by a close friend? What did you do at that time?

Day 2

What were his feelings when he wrote this psalm? Name 3 feelings.

Day 6

The psalmist cries out to God in the evening, morning and noon (v. 17). Imagine how persistent he is. Have you cried out to God like that before?

Day 3

Imagine feeling anguish in your heart. Have you felt this before? When did you feel it? What made you feel that way?

Day 7

How is the psalmist comforted and assured by God? (v. 16-23) At the end of the prayer, the psalmist says, ‘But as for me, I trust in you’. Imagine yourself saying this in the midst of your troubles.

Day 4

How does the psalmist ask God to help him?

Day 5

The psalmist feels betrayed

Prayer Points



DAY 1

18 Aug

Pouring out our love on Jesus

Spiritual food ~ Matthew 26: 6-13

When Mary poured the jar of very expensive perfume on Jesus' head, there were two responses – a very unhappy one from the disciples, and a very accepting one from Jesus. When we love Jesus with all our hearts, we usually seem foolish to others, the same way Mary seemed foolish to the disciples. But what is more important is that what she did touched Jesus' heart and made a difference to HIM. Today, let's:

- Ask God to help you see His beauty and majesty... so you can love Him like Mary did, without caring what others think.
- Pray that the Malaysian Church will pour out their love on Jesus, just like Mary did.



DAY 2

19 Aug

Loving Jesus even when others hate us

Spiritual food ~ John 15: 18-19

When we truly love Jesus, unbelievers may dislike us, make fun of us, question us or even harm us. This is because we are not like them and we live according to Jesus' standards, not theirs. When we face these problems, we need to make up our mind to continue loving Jesus. Today, let's:

- Ask God to help us understand that we belong to His kingdom and to help us stand strong even when others are unkind to us.
- Pray that the Malaysian Church will stay loyal and faithful to Jesus even when others make it difficult for us.

DAY 3

20 Aug

Staying in Jesus' love

Spiritual food ~ Luke 23: 32-34

Jesus could still find it in his heart to pray for his enemies – even when he was hung on the cross like a criminal. This kind of love would not be possible if God's love was not in Him. We too need to remain in Jesus' love so that we can love our enemies like Jesus did. It is His deep and wondrous love for us that gives us the power to love those who hate us. Today, let's:

- Ask God to fill your heart with His love so that you can love

and forgive your enemies.

- Pray that the Malaysian Church will be so filled with God's love that we can love like Jesus did when trouble comes.

DAY 4

21 Aug

Believing that God has authority over everything

Spiritual food ~ Acts 16: 25-26

How did Paul and Silas react when they were thrown into prison? They prayed, worshipped and brought God's presence into prison! Although the rulers of their time put them behind bars, they knew that God had the higher authority. Today, let's:



- Agree out loud that God has authority over your life, your church, our nation, and all the nations of the earth.
- Pray that when trouble comes, the Malaysian church will do what Paul and Silas did – pray and worship and bring God's presence into our nation.

DAY 5

22 Aug

Rejoicing when we suffer for Jesus

Spiritual food ~ Acts 5: 40-41

Rejoicing after being beaten is very strange! Although the beatings were painful and shameful, the apostles still rejoiced because they knew it was a privilege to suffer for Jesus – they were considered worthy by God! God had promised that those who share in Jesus' sufferings would also share in His glory!

Today, let's:

- Ask the Holy Spirit to remind you of a time when you suffered because of Jesus. Thank God that He has counted you worthy.
- Pray that the Malaysian Church will understand that it is a privilege to suffer for Jesus, and will rejoice in times of trouble.

DAY 6

23 Aug

Looking forward to Heaven

Spiritual food ~ 2 Corinthians 4:17 - 18

Do you look forward to heaven? It is where you will experience true joy and peace and receive your FULL reward from God. When you know heaven is waiting for you, all the difficulties you face as a Christian will seem very small – so stand strong! Today, let's:



- Thank God for preparing a place for you in heaven.
- Pray that we, the Malaysian Church, will have heaven in our hearts so we can stand strong when troubles come.

DAY 7

24 Aug

Remaining true to the end

Spiritual food ~ Revelations 21: 1-8

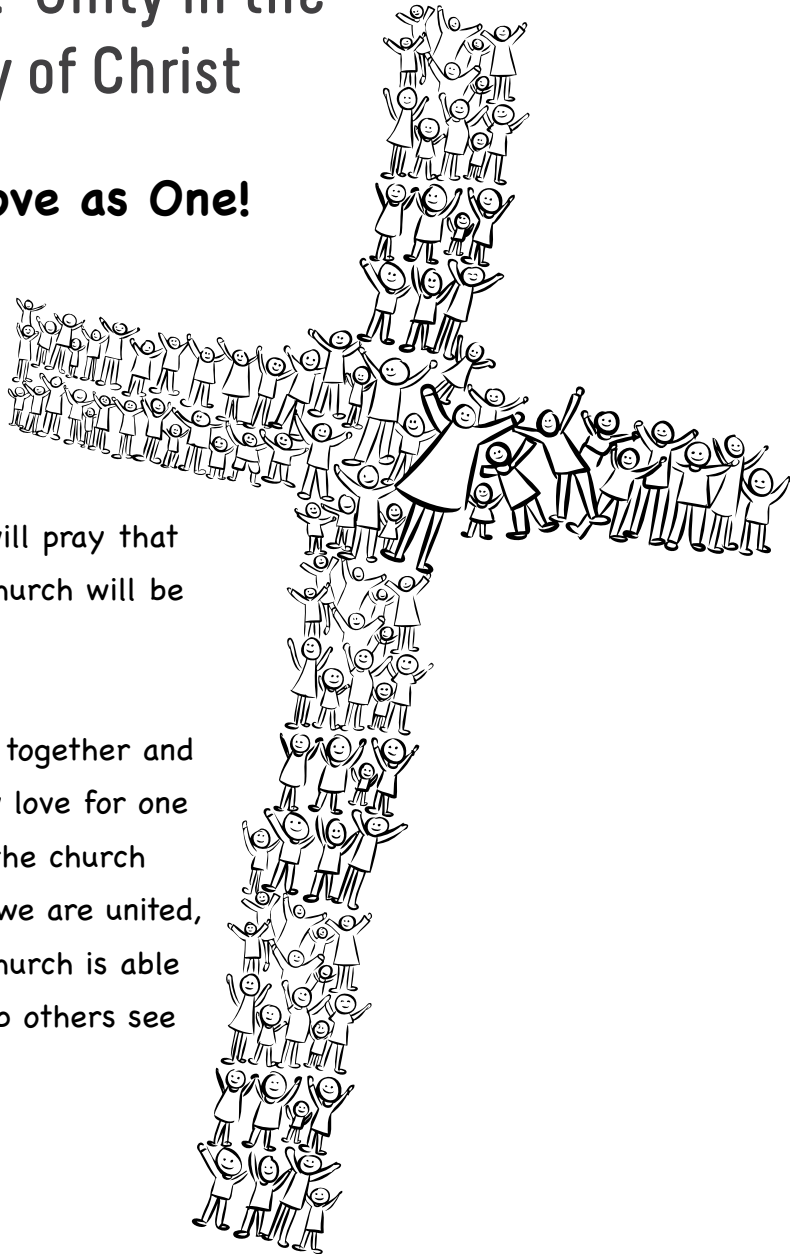
We must start well and END well. God has shown us in His word that this earth will end one day, and there will be a new heaven and earth. If we remain true to Him and follow Him to the end, we will be with Him in this new heaven and earth. Today, let's:

- Think about what God has promised in the new heaven and earth.
- Pray that God will help you and the Malaysian Church remain true to Him no matter how hard it seems.



Week 4: Unity in the Body of Christ

Love as One!



This week, we will pray that the Malaysian church will be united in love.

Unity... standing together and having brotherly love for one another makes the church **STRONG**. When we are united, the Malaysian church is able to grow and help others see Jesus in us.

PRAYING A PSALM

This week, let us meditate on Psalm 133.

Here are some suggestions that you can use each day:

Day 1

Read this psalm out loud. How do you think the psalmist sounds saying this psalm?

Day 2

Imagine precious oil poured on the head, running down a beard, on to the collar of a robe. What a bizarre picture... can you imagine it? Why do you think the psalmist describes unity this way? How is this similar to unity?

Day 3

The precious oil the psalmist talks about is actually a special anointing oil that is reserved only for the High Priest. Here, the psalmist talks about the precious oil poured on the head of the very first high priest, Aaron. Think about how the psalmist compares unity to the precious anointing oil reserved for Aaron. How precious unity must be!

Day 4

The psalmist compares unity to the dew of Hermon falling on

Mount Zion. Dew is moisture that fertilizes the land and makes things grow. Think about how unity among God's people is like this life-giving dew. How does unity bring life among God's people?

Day 5

How important is unity to God? How important is unity to you?

Day 6

Think about a time when you experienced unity... it doesn't have to be in church. It could be among your classmates, or your family members. What did it feel like? What good came out of it?

Day 7: Think about how God feels about disunity among brothers and sisters in Christ. Have you contributed to disunity in church? Repent and ask God to forgive you if you have. Ask Him to change your heart to be like His.



Prayer Points



DAY 1

25 Aug

Fulfilling Jesus' desire for us to be ONE

Spiritual food ~ John 17: 20-23

At Jesus' darkest hour before dying on the cross, He kept His eyes on those He was saving – the Church. This was His prayer, that the Church will be ONE so that the world will believe in Him. Today, let's:

- Pray that the Malaysian Church will fulfil Jesus' desire for us – to be ONE.
- Pray that the Malaysian Church will work continuously to be ONE body.

DAY 2

26 Aug

Having a godly attitude

Spiritual food ~ Ephesians 4: 1-2

Unity begins with our attitude. We must be humble, gentle, patient, forbearing (or tolerant) and loving towards one another. Do you consider being all these important? Today, let's:

- Ask God to make us humble, gentle, patient, forbearing and loving towards others.
- Pray that God will help the Malaysian Church be all these things so we can be united and stand together.

DAY 3

27 Aug

Growing up together in truth and love

Spiritual food ~ Ephesians 4: 11-16

To be united, we must grow up! How do we grow up spiritually? We need to grow not alone but with one another, speaking the truth to each other in love. In this way, we can reach unity in our faith and in our knowledge of Jesus, and not be weak and wishy-washy in what we believe in. Today, let's:

- Think about the opportunities you have to grow with your Christian brothers and sisters (e.g. praying together using this prayer booklet). Thank God for them, and ask Him to help you and the Malaysian Church to use these opportunities to grow together in truth and love.

DAY 4

28 Aug

Being united is a good witness to others

Spiritual food ~ Acts 2: 1-13

On Pentecost, as Jesus' disciples prayed together, the Holy Spirit came like a fire and separated into smaller tongues of fire, resting on each believer's head. The crowds were amazed at what followed and that day, 3000 people were saved (v.41). What a beautiful picture of a united church sharing



One spirit and bearing witness to others! Today, let's:

- Pray that the Malaysian Church will see how important it is to be united so we can be a good witness to others.
- Pray that unity will be taught in churches.

DAY 5

29 Aug

Relying on God's power and strength for unity

Spiritual food ~ Romans 15: 5-6

We must rely on God to live in unity with one another. Because of what Jesus has done for us, we can love and bear with one another. We must also let the Holy Spirit work in our hearts and constantly remind us of God's words in the Bible. When we rely on God's power and strength, we can have the kind of unity that only God can give. Today, let's:

- Pray that the Malaysian Church will rely on God's power and strength to live in unity with one another.
- Pray that God will heal hurts between Christians.

DAY 6

30 Aug

Having Unity that shares the same beliefs about Jesus **Spiritual food ~ 1 John 1: 3**

The disciples told those they witnessed to what they had seen and heard about Jesus. This was important so that the new believers could share what the disciples' believed about Jesus. If not, how would they be able to agree with the disciples and be united with them? In the same way, having the same beliefs about Jesus strengthens the unity Christians share. Today, let's:

- Pray that the Malaysian Church will share the same beliefs about Jesus so that churches will have strong unity.

DAY 7

31 Aug

Having Unity based on Truth, not unbelief or false beliefs **Spiritual food ~ 1 Corinthians 11: 19**

Sometimes, there is no unity in church because some Christians have unbelief or believe the wrong things and they disagree with Christians with the right beliefs. This type of disunity weakens the Church. The Church must be able to correct any unbelief or wrong beliefs about Jesus among their members. By doing this, the Malaysian Church will have the kind of unity that is strong because it is based on truth, not unbelief or false beliefs. Today, let's:

- Pray for unity that is based on truth in the Malaysian Church.
- Pray that God will give church leaders wisdom to spot and correct unbelief or false beliefs so that the Malaysian Church will have strong unity.



Week 5: The Church in Discipling the Nations

Love faithfully!

This week, we will pray that the Malaysian Church will answer God's call to make disciples of all nations.

A church that is **STRONG** is obedient to God's call to disciple – both our own church members and those we reach out to. Discipling means reaching out to others with God's love, telling them about Jesus, and then helping them grow by guiding and teaching them about the ways of God and His commands. Let us pray that the Malaysian Church will be faithful in answering God's call!

PRAYING A PSALM

This week, let us meditate on Psalm 34.

Here are some suggestions that you can use each day:

Day 1

Read the psalm out loud. How do you think the psalmist sounds saying this psalm?

Day 2

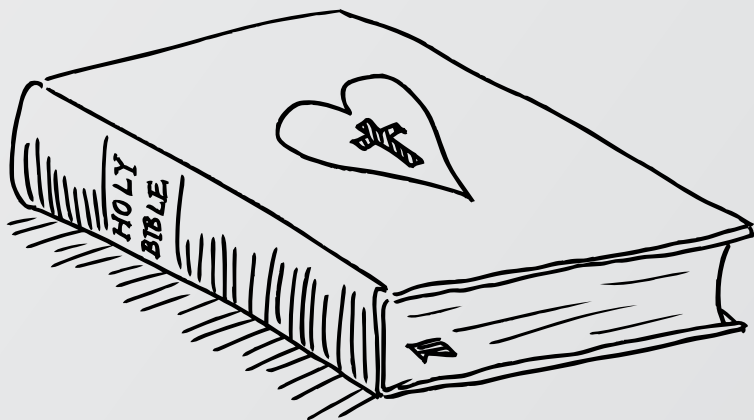
The psalmist is giving God his highest praise. Have you ever praised God like this?

Day 3

The psalmist boasts about God's goodness to him. Have you boasted about how good God has been to you?

Day 4

The psalmist exclaims with confidence, 'Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him'. Do you have confidence that God will protect and provide for you? Think of a time when He was good to you. Give Him praise for it.



Day 5

The psalmist says, 'Come, my children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the Lord' (v. 11). What does he teach about the fear of the Lord?

Day 6

Who teaches you about the fear of the Lord? Your parents, teachers or maybe a writer? Think about one person who has taught you about the fear of the Lord. How has that changed your walk with God?

Day 7

Have you taught others about God before? Maybe your younger brother or sister, or a friend in school? What made you do it? Do you think the person learnt from you?

Prayer Points



DAY 1

1 Sep

Carrying out the Great Commission in Malaysia Spiritual food ~ Mark 16: 15-16

Are we carrying out Jesus' command in Malaysia? We, the Malaysian Church, are made up of many cultures and can speak many languages. We are able to reach out to people of different cultures and languages in our everyday lives. Are we using this gift? Today, let's:

- Ask God to open our eyes to see those who need God.
- Ask God to help us reach out to them in love and tell them of the hope that is in Him.

DAY 2

2 Sep

Discipling the Body of Christ Spiritual food ~ Matthew 28: 19-20

Discipling our church members – including children and youth – and new believers, is very important. If the Malaysian Church does not equip its members with God's truths, they will be shaped by worldly ideas that are not from God. Today, let's:

- Pray that the Malaysian Church will obey Jesus' instruction to 'make disciples'.
- Pray that church leaders and members will have God-given wisdom to disciple others.

DAY 3

3 Sep

Reaching out to every cultural and language group

Spiritual food ~ Acts 1: 8

In the same way that the early disciples spread out from their local area to distant places as Jesus' witnesses, churches in Malaysia must also spread out from their local church and reach out to different cultural and language groups in Malaysia. The different groups in Malaysia include the Chinese, Indian, English and Bahasa Malaysia-speaking groups. Today, let's:

- Pray that each Christian group in Malaysia will reach out to support one another and be united.
- Pray that God will protect the freedom to worship Him for every cultural and language group in our country.

DAY 4

4 Sep

Reaching out to the Orang Asli of Malaysia

Spiritual food ~ Psalms 72: 4

The Orang Asli are a minority group in Malaysia who were the first people to occupy Peninsular Malaysia. They have not progressed much as a group and remain poor. Today, let's:

- Pray that God will defend the Orang Asli and that the government will give them their land and religious rights.
- Pray that God will bless the young Orang Asli – that they will be discipled by older Christians, they will excel in their studies and they will become strong leaders in the future so they can protect the rights of their people.

DAY 5

5 Sep

Discipling the Indigenous Bumiputra

Spiritual food ~ Joshua 1: 7

The Indigenous Bumiputra Christian group in Malaysia make up 64% of the Christian community in Malaysia – a very large group! Their main challenges right now is guarding their religious and land rights. This group needs their own strong Christian leaders to lead the people. Today, let's:

- Pray that this group – who form the largest Christian group in Malaysia – will have strong and courageous leaders who follow after God.
- Pray that God will defend their religious and land rights so that they have freedom to worship Him and own land that is rightfully theirs.

DAY 6

6 Sep

Discipling the younger generation

Spiritual food ~ 2 Timothy 2: 1-2

Paul, who discipled a young man called Timothy on God's truths, instructed him to look for other reliable people who would do the same thing – guide and teach others of God's truths. Discipling the younger generation just



like Paul did is very important if we want the next generation (you guys!) to be spiritually strong men and women and not be influenced by the world's culture. Today, let's:

- Pray for reliable people who can and are willing to disciple the youth and children.
- Pray that the younger generation will grow up **STRONG** in God and not follow the world's values of having lower moral standards, adopting a ME-first attitude, and valuing money and things over people.

DAY 7

7 Sep

Making disciples of all nations

Spiritual food ~ Matthew 28: 19

Right now, there are many foreign workers, students and refugees in Malaysia. We often meet them in places where we work, study, worship and live. Not only that, Malaysians are also traveling to different countries very frequently and meet with people of different nationalities. 'Making disciples of all nations', as Jesus commanded, is becoming something very possible for the Malaysian Church. Today, let's:

- Pray that the Malaysian Church will reach out in love to people of different nationalities right here in our country.
- Pray that Malaysians traveling to different countries will actively reach out to people they meet there, and also support the local churches there.

Week 6: The Church and the Gospel of the Kingdom

Love His Kingdom!

This week, we will pray that the Malaysian Church will put God's kingdom first.

As people belonging to God's kingdom, we need to honour God as our King and seek His authority over our lives. God has promised us that if we seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, He will provide for all our needs. This week, let us pray that the Malaysian Church will put God and His kingdom first so that the church will be in God's will and be STRONG.



PRAYING A PSALM

This week, let us meditate on Psalm 103.

Here are some suggestions that you can use each day:

Day 1

Read this psalm out loud. How do you think the psalmist sounds when he says this psalm?

Day 2

This psalm is a psalm of praise to God for His goodness and graciousness to us. Which part of this psalm speaks to you? Thank God for His goodness and graciousness to you.

Day 3

The psalmist praises God with all his inmost being. That is genuine praise! Have you praised God like this before? Why don't you give Him your most sincere praise right now.

Day 4

The psalmist is talking to himself in this psalm, reminding himself not to forget all God's benefits. Have you ever reminded yourself not to forget how good God is to you? Have you ever listed out all the good things God has done for you? Why don't you give it a try today? Write down / say aloud at least five things that God has done for you.

Day 5

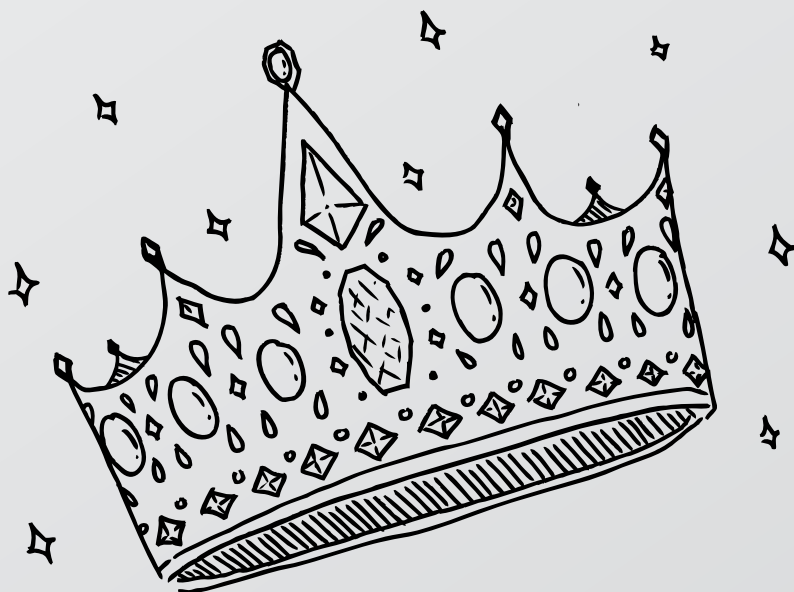
The psalmist talks about God's great love for us in verses 10-18. Do these verses assure you of God's love for you? Think about these verses and how much God loves you.

Day 6

The psalmist talks about God as King and deserving of the highest praise (v. 19-22). He asks the angels and all the works of God's hands to give Him praise. Think about all that God has created, giving Him the highest praise. How great is our God!

Day 7

Is the King of Kings, who is good and gracious, abounding in love, worthy of all praise? Give God, your creator and your loving and compassionate father, your highest praise.



Prayer Points



DAY 1

8 Sep

Seeking first the Kingdom of God
Spiritual food ~ Matthew 6: 33



What does it mean to seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness? It is really about accepting that Jesus is King over everything and in your life, lifting Him up as your King, and living out His righteous values as He has commanded. As a citizen of God's kingdom, do you do this? Today, let's:

- Ask God to help you seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness every day.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to show you what it is that always competes with God's kingship in your life. Ask God to help you put HIM first instead.

DAY 2

9 Sep

The poor in God's kingdom
Spiritual food ~ Luke 6: 20

God has a special place for the poor in His kingdom even though He welcomes everyone. The difficulties they face in not having enough moves God's heart, and it says in Proverbs 19: 17, 'Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and He will reward them for what they have done'. God Himself watches over them! Today, let's:

- Pray that the Malaysian Church will share God's heart for the poor and provide for their needs.
- Pray that the poor in Malaysia will come into God's kingdom through the kindness of the Church.

DAY 3

10 Sep

Praying for God's Kingdom

Spiritual food ~ Matthew 6: 9-10

One of the things we need to put first in our prayers is God's Kingdom. Today's reading is part of the prayer Jesus taught us where we are to pray that God's kingdom come, His will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. What we are praying for is that God is lifted up as King in our lives wherever we are, and that His perfect will is carried out. When God's kingdom is put first, He moves mightily. Today, let's:

- Pray that the Malaysian Church will pray for God's Kingdom.
- Pray that the Malaysian church will obey God's perfect will so that He will move mightily in our midst.

DAY 4

11 Sep

The Kingdom of God is in us

Spiritual food ~ Luke 17: 20-21

Where is the Kingdom of God? Jesus explained to the Pharisees that the Kingdom of God is not found by observing the seasons

and times, nor is it a place. It is in fact, within a person! When we place Jesus as King in our lives, that is where His kingdom is. Is Jesus your King? Today, let's:

- Pray that everyone in our nation will seek and find the Kingdom and the King.
- Thank God for the peace, righteousness and joy that we experience in God's Kingdom. Pray that our nation will experience this too.

DAY 5

12 Sep

Needing God's grace and power to enter the Kingdom of God
Spiritual food ~ Acts 14: 22b

Entering the Kingdom of God is not easy. For God's kingdom to reign in us, we need to give up being in control, turn away from our sinful ways and follow Jesus. Obeying Jesus' commands can also bring trouble on ourselves – when Jesus' disciples obeyed

his command to preach the good news, they were persecuted and went through many sufferings. Today, let's:

- Ask God to give us and the Malaysian Church His grace and power so that we can enter His kingdom and follow Him.
- Thank God that even though it is not easy, we are filled with His peace, righteousness and joy when we follow Him.





DAY 6

13 Sep

Proclaiming the Kingdom's message

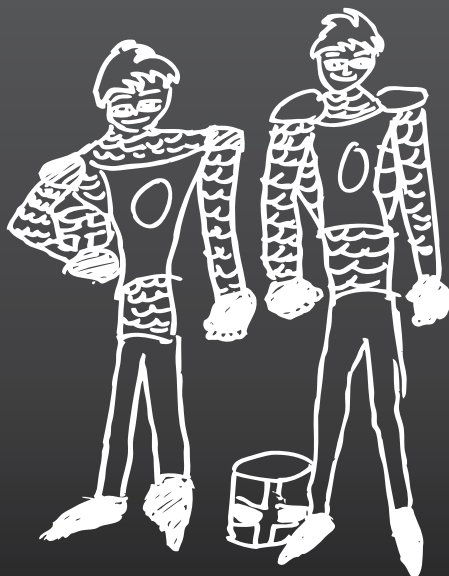
Spiritual food ~ Mark 1: 14-15

What is the good news that we are to proclaim? It is that God has invited ALL to come into His kingdom. Anyone who repents and believes Him will enter His Kingdom and have eternal life. We are also to proclaim that all things are under Jesus' authority and that His values and commands are to be lifted up in our society and nation. This is the Kingdom message that we must faithfully proclaim. Today, let's:

- Pray that the Malaysian Church will faithfully proclaim this message.
- Pray that our lives will shine for God and speak as loudly as our words.
- Pray that this message will be received with open hearts in our nation.

When we fight in God's Kingdom, we are not fighting what we see in the physical world but in the spiritual. This is why we need to stand strong in God's power because it is HIS power that will win us our battles. If the Malaysian Church wants to gain victories over the problems we see, we must first gain victories in the spiritual world. Let us stand strong in God and pray that HIS KINGDOM will reign in Malaysia. Today, let's:

- Pray that the Malaysian Church will abide in God and be committed Christians so that we can stand strong in the spiritual realm.
- Pray that we will be very courageous when we face difficulties, and rely on His power and strength.





Week 7: Impacting the Nation and Nation Building

Love that makes a difference!

This last week, we will pray that the Malaysian Church will be the salt and light in Malaysia.

A STRONG church makes a difference for God. Coming back to the parable of the ten virgins, let us pray that the Malaysian Church will have a lamp that shines brightly for Jesus. Let us pray that the church will have oil in our lamp – a close relationship with Jesus – so that our love for Jesus will cause us to do what He commands: to love one another and be united, to make disciples of all nations, and to seek first His kingdom and His righteousness. Let us pray that the Malaysian Church will be a beautiful bride, filled with love for Jesus and good works, so that we will shine brightly for Him and bring Him glory and honour! Amen!

PRAYING A PSALM

This week, let us meditate on Psalm 40.

Day 1

The Psalmist declares God's goodness and love for him all throughout the Psalm. As he says in verses 9 – 10, he proclaims it in the great assembly, does not seal his lips and does not hide God's goodness and righteousness in his heart. He declares it and makes it known to everyone! What do you do when God is good to you or saves you from trouble... do you hide it in your heart, or do you share it with others so they can give Him praise? Today, thank God for all He has done for you. I encourage you to make a decision in your heart to unseal your lips and make known to others of all He has done for you!

Prayer Points



DAY 1

15 Sep

Being the salt in Malaysia

Spiritual food ~ Matthew 5: 13

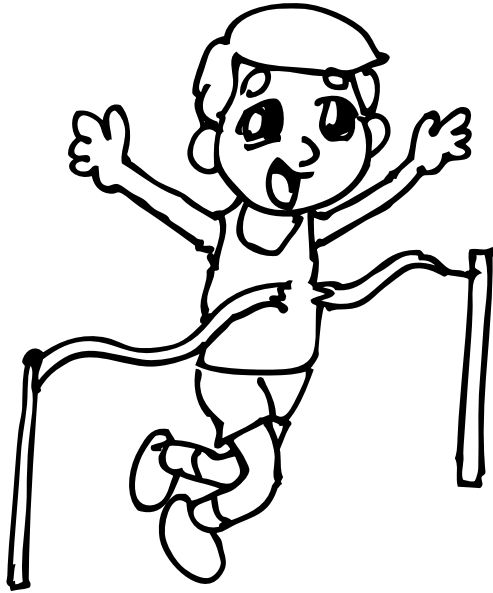
The Church is the flavour of society; what God has put in us – His love and values – is able to change society for His glory. However, in order for our 'saltiness' to rub off on others, we need to be in touch with them! If we only stay in our saltshakers (church), the fragrance of God will not bring any change to Malaysia.

Today, let's pray that the Malaysian Church will be salty in these ways:

- We will live by God's standards and be different in society.
- We will reach out and be in contact with others, not only mix among ourselves in church.
- We will be united and work together to influence society.

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

You have made it to the finish line!



**Take a moment now to thank God
for this precious time with Him.**

I trust that you have been blessed by this time with Jesus. Continue to stay close to Him so that you always have oil in your lamp to burn brightly for Him!

See you next year!



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