

21-DAY PRAYER & FAST



### WEEK 1

30.03.2019

05.04.2019

#### **JUST ASK**

"Rice, fish, spinach, grapes, bread, peanut butter, chocolate-mint ice cream..." These were the items on my grocery list recently. After grabbing them off the shelves in the supermarket, into the trolley, past the check-out counter and into my car, the items made their way into the pantry in my home. They sat snugly in the cupboards until they were "called upon".

Not too long after my oldest son asked, "Mummy, what's for dinner tonight?". I replied, "It's fried fish and spinach soup with rice". My youngest son then asked, "Mummy, could I have some chocolate-mint ice cream?" "Sure, but only after your dinner," I replied. I was glad that I had all the items ready at hand.

Reading Matthew 7:9-11 reminds me that as parents, we will give good gifts to our children. In the same way, our Father in Heaven wants to give us good – and even better – gifts! His goodness is readily stored up in His "spiritual pantry", waiting to be poured into our lives. All we need to do is seek and ask Him.

# WHAT BREAKTHROUGH OR GOOD THING ARE YOU DESIRING FROM GOD THIS YEAR?

## DEEPER DESIRE

FOR PRAYER &

READING THE

WORD OF GOD

#### TOO GOOD

It might have started out as a good idea. But in your pursuit to succeed, anxiety kicks in and things get out of control. Soon enough, the "perfect" plan crumbles and like a half-baked cheesecake, it turns into a mess.

Ever made one of those silly mistakes? Most of us have. Yet, in all our shortcomings, God isn't distant. He is our Heavenly Father who is faithful, and His arms are never too short to embrace and save us. God is more than able to turn our silly mistakes into significant milestones, because He sees us not as hired servants but as heirs (Romans 8:17).

I recall a conversation I had with a church partner who accepted a job offer after months of prayer. I said to him, "Congrats on getting the job! How's the first week been?" His reply to me was, "It's my dream job. God came through for me... He is too good!"

God is indeed too good, so be confident that He has the best in store for you. Draw close to Him and live victoriously as His child today.

# AS A CHILD OF GOD, HOW CAN MY DECISIONS AND ACTIONS PLEASE HIM TODAY?

BLESS AND

SPEAK PEACE

OVER THE

NATION OF

MALAYSIA

#### **GOD'S TRUE NATURE**

Many times in the past when I've faced dead-end situations in the workplace, the Holy Spirit prompts me to sing of God's goodness instead of complaining about the problem. Over the years I have learnt to constantly fix my eyes on God, and deliberately choose to praise and give Him thanks despite how I feel.

Sometimes, life puts us in situations where we find it difficult to believe that God can be good all the time. But the truth is, our Heavenly Father is always good. It is His true nature and a character trait that cannot change. God is good in the past, the present, as well as the future. From the beginning of creation, "God saw all that He had made, and it was very good" (Genesis 1:31).

In Isaiah 55:8-9, God reminds us that we cannot judge His goodness based on our own understanding because "His ways are not our ways." Rather, we should trust in Him wholeheartedly. Only the Holy Spirit can reveal to us the full measure of His goodness, and we can only grasp this goodness when we experience it for ourselves.

# TO SEE A

### REVIVED HUNGER

FOR PERSONAL

AND CORPORATE

PRAYER IN ACTS

#### LOOKING THROUGH GOD'S LENS

Have you ever been caught in a challenging season that feels like it's never-ending? Maybe you've been trying hard to be strong, yet it gets harder as the days go by.

Well, let me tell you some good news. Though times may be hard, we have a solid rock to trust and cling on to. He is God – our rock, fortress, and deliverer (Psalm 18:2). Trusting in God's goodness will allow you to surrender everything to Him. In return, we will experience His peace that surpasses all understanding.

As we read in Habakkuk 3:17, though everything may seem to fall apart, we still choose to rejoice in the Lord, because His joy is the strength that will carry us through. How assuring! The fact that we can always trust in His goodness in every circumstance is all we need to keep us going and to live life victoriously.

God is always present in our lives. He sees all things in the past, present, and future. In fact, He sees things that we may not see, and knows things that we do not know. Therefore, let's learn to look at life not through the lens of disappointment, but the lens of God's goodness.

# PARTNERS TO

DESIRE TO

BE DISCIPLED

AND TO DISCIPLE

OTHERS

#### TRUST GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART

Are you going through a very difficult situation right now? Does it seem like there are too many factors involved and you don't know the right decision to make?

Many of life's problems are out of our control, such as sickness, finances, family relationships, and the future. People who have no outlets of expression will implode internally, leading to depression or hasty decisions that will lead to more problems. Because they have no one to rely on, or choose not to talk about it, they are filled with fear, restlessness, and uncertainty.

The Bible reminds us that we can hope in God. God is not just present, but He is also good. The Bible even mentions that He is a good rewarder and a giver of good gifts (Matthew 7:11). He will guide those who trust Him.

If you're still trying to control your situation with your own abilities and understanding, it's time to commit your circumstances to Him. Have faith, believe, and incline your heart towards His Word that you may rest in Him. Soon, you'll find that the things of this world will become smaller and dimmer as you focus on God and let Him straighten your paths.

# EVERY PARTNER

# TO GROW IN THEIR

### EFFORTS TO BE

A WITNESS

#### BE CONFIDENT IN GOD

Do you believe that God is good? It's definitely easy to say so during the good times. But what about during the bad times?

Not too long ago, I noticed that something was not right with my health. Negative thoughts began to fill my mind. Coming from a family with a history of terminal diseases, a lot of "what ifs" began to haunt me. I was afraid to go to the doctors as I was not ready to accept whatever the report was going to be.

At my lowest point, God reminded me of Psalm 23:6 which says, "Surely Your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever."

That verse gave me confidence to face whatever lay ahead. I surrendered everything to God and started declaring His goodness and mercy over my life every day. Eventually, I went for various tests, and the report came back clean!

The experience taught me to trust God fully and be confident that I will see His goodness in my life – be it in good times or bad times.

# WILL YOU CHOOSE TO TRUST GOD EVEN IN YOUR LOWEST POINT IN LIFE?

# ACTS JAPAN:

GOD'S PROVISION

FOR THE TEAM AND

THE RIGHT TIMING

TO LAUNCH OUT

#### LIGHT IN DARK PLACES

In this passage, we see that Paul and Silas were thrown into prison for casting out a demon-possessed girl. Sometimes, we can be thrown into difficult situations when we're trying to do what God has told us. We wonder why, and may even get discouraged.

The good thing is, God knows that we have obeyed Him. He has taken note of our service, but at times decides to put us in places with great needs. It's a place where others have missed out on, or to a group of people who need help but are neglected.

When Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, the prisoners received a freedom from the spiritual chains that bound them. Although the earthquake broke open the physical doors, they didn't run away because they had received God's word through Paul.

God always sends us where we are needed most. When Paul says that "we have the mind of Christ" in 1 Corinthians 2:16, he means to say, "God, exchange my thoughts for yours". Paul and Silas had done the work of God even without realising it, simply by being available even in the darkest and loneliest of places.

THINK OF AN EXAMPLE FROM YOUR LIFE WHEN GOOD CAME OUT OF SOMETHING BAD.

### ACTS EUROPE:

LONDON, BRISTOL

AND EDINBURGH TEAM

TO BE STRENGTHENED

AND REACH SOULS

### ON TO WEEK 2!



NOT TOO LATE TO SHARE IT WITH YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY, DO IT TOGETHER!

