14 DAYS OF PRAYER & FASTING

Starting 29 January

RADICAL RESILIENCE

Experience Jesus | Develop Cultural Discernment

Forge Meaningful, Intergenerational Relationships

Know and Live your Calling | Show and Share the Love of Jesus

2024

WELCOME!

We heard God speak clearly that the theme for us, as Edge Church, would be to have Radical Resilience. It is about us going deeper and to be disciples that are thermostats rather than thermometers in our worlds – not becoming a part of the culture of this world, but rather setting the temperature and being an example of loving God and people well in our worlds.

As we enter these 14 days of prayer and fasting, may we commit to pray first and ask God to lead and guide us in all areas of our lives.

I encourage you to spend 10-15 minutes daily praying, whether it's first thing in the morning or before you go to bed at night.

Remember the 3 steps to creating a consistent habit of drawing closer to God: Choose a Time, Choose a Place, Choose a Plan.

What is the purpose of fasting?
Fasting is an act of abstaining from food (typically) as a declaration of your dependency on God and His provision. It is a physical representation of our hunger and desire to do God's will above all else as an act of surrender. I encourage you to set apart 10-15 minutes daily to pray first, in place of eating a meal, checking your social media, or whatever you've chosen to fast.

Although food fasts are most common, there are many different things that we have become dependent on to survive. There are various fasts that you can commit to this week and we encourage you to spend time with God in deciding which you will commit to:

1. **Total Fast** – to abstain from all food for a set time and only drink liquids
2. **Partial Fast** – choosing to fast specific meal times e.g. fasting from sunrise until sunset
3. **Selective Fast** – removing certain foods from your diet e.g. meat, sugar, breads etc.
4. **Soul Fast** – not using things such as social media, not watching TV etc.

Our team has created this journal to guide you as we pray daily as Edge Church; for ourselves, our church, our community, and our country. We will meet at church on Thursday, 1 February and Thursday, 8 February at 19:00 to pray together.

Edge Church, we're calling you to pray and fast and seek to put God first as He builds a Radical Resilience within us!

Love you guys!

Daniel Erasmus

DAY 1 29 JANUARY 2024

As we go on this journey, you will see that every day there is one topic, a corresponding verse, and a prayer prompt. Prayer is most effective when it isn't something we do every now and then, but when it's a lifestyle we cultivate – we pray first! Prayer should always be our first response and not our last resort. It's a privilege to be able to come to God in prayer! It changes everything, but more importantly prayer changes you!

A few tips as you prioritize prayer over these next 14 days. To understand how to have a lifestyle of prayer, we can look at the example Jesus gave during His life on earth.

Have a CERTAIN TIME

Jesus got up early in the morning to spend time with His Heavenly Father. Make a daily appointment with God—whether it's first thing in the morning, at lunch, or in the evening—and faithfully keep it. Set a reminder if you have to, and if you miss one day, try your best not to miss two.

Have a CERTAIN PLACE

Jesus had a specific place He went to pray. Having a designated place to pray helps us remove distractions and frees us to be able to worship and pray out loud in faith. Make sure that place becomes a visible reminder for you to pray. A helpful tip could be leaving your Bible open there to remind you to spend time in prayer and God's Word.

Have a CERTAIN PLAN

When Jesus taught His disciples how to pray, He gave them a prayer outline. We call it "The Lord's Prayer." *(Read Matthew 6:9-13)* Our desire is for this plan to be a daily guide for your time with God. As we pray every day, consider incorporating some worship music, additional time to read the Bible or write in a journal. Not everyone's approach will look the same, but it does help to have a plan for connecting regularly with God.

Prayer:
What are you believing God for during this time of Prayer & Fasting? What are you trusting God for?

WHAT IS THE HOLY SPIRIT SAYING TO YOU?

DAY 2 30 JANUARY 2024

In the beginning, God...(Genesis 1:1)

We see how right from the beginning of scripture; it was God first and foremost. "In the beginning, God" is how we can start this year. We have an opportunity to commit to putting Him first. God desires to be in relationship with us and as we go on this journey of Prayer & Fasting over the next 14 days, we are committing to growing closer in this relationship with Him. This time will, hopefully, strip away the clutter that so often clouds our lives and makes space for us to spend time in relationship, enjoying time together with our Father.

As we seek Him first, we know that we can trust Him to take care of what is ahead of us. As we seek Him first, we can commit to following Him in every area of our lives. We can commit to seek Him first this year as we go on this journey of Prayer & Fasting. We can commit to seek Him first every week by making church a priority. We can commit to seek Him first every day by spending our devotional time with Him.

Commit everything you do to the Lord. Trust him, and he will help you. (Psalm 37:5)

We cannot hope to achieve, dream, live out our purpose without first coming to the place of realisation that it is in relationship with God where all of this is made possible.

Prayer:
Ask God for clarity around how you can put Him first in every area of your life this year.

WHAT IS THE HOLY SPIRIT SAYING TO YOU?

DAY 3 31 JANUARY 2024

Don't copy the behaviour and customs of the world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect. (Romans 12:2)

Life has a way of offering us so many highs but also so many lows. Stepping into Radical Resilience this year has the power to shape the way that we live our lives.

Radical Resilience is about Experiencing Jesus. It is about Developing a Cultural Discernment that is based on God and His unchanging Word. It is forging intergenerational relationships throughout the life of the church, is how we build resilience in the generations to come. It is knowing and living out the calling that God has placed on each of us, and it is about making a difference in the world by showing and sharing the love of Jesus. As we embrace and embody these five areas, we can hope to see Radical Resilience begin to characterise our lives.

Radical Resilience is a call from God to stay connected to Him as we grow to become the disciples that He has always desired for us to be. Disciples who would be resilient in everything that we face – the highs and the lows, this year. Jesus encourages us in John that we will encounter many challenging situations throughout our time this side of eternity but more so, that He promises to be with us in those very situations.

Prayer:
What does Radical Resilience look like for you? Which of the 5 areas do you need to grow in this year?

WHAT IS THE HOLY SPIRIT SAYING TO YOU?

DAY 4 1 FEBRUARY 2024

So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. (Romans 12:1)

If we aim to live in a way that is characterised by Radical Resilience this year, we need to adopt virtues that will help make this possible. Virtues are the foundation of who we are as disciples and shape the way that we live. Our foundation is built on honour, integrity, perseverance, and gratitude – the essence of living a godly life.

Empowered by His divine strength, we believe God has provided everything we need to escape the world's corruption and to be His salt and light to those around us. This is how God has called us to live and as radically resilient disciples, we have the opportunity to commit to living this way in 2024.

Prayer:
What virtue do you need to grow in this year? What area of your life do you need God to help you grow in?

WHAT IS THE HOLY SPIRIT SAYING TO YOU?

DAY 5 2 FEBRUARY 2024

He is so rich in kindness and grace that he purchased our freedom with the blood of his Son and forgave our sins. (Ephesians 1:7)

We're promised forgiveness from our Father because his forgiveness is offered in complete grace. We have done nothing to deserve the forgiveness God so freely lavishes upon us. God offers us forgiveness because he is love; it is his very nature. And as Jesus demonstrated through his death, love forgives.

God, in his love, has laid before us a path founded on mercy, and He calls us to do the same for others. As disciples, brought into His family, we must forgive as God has forgiven us. Jesus modelled forgiveness perfectly in laying down his own life for us. Forgiveness requires humility. It is a decision to offer unmerited grace because Colossians 3 says, "as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive."

Who in your life do you feel has wronged you? It could be a small wound. It could be a life-altering sin committed against you. Maybe a parent left you. Maybe you were abused. Maybe you lost a job opportunity that should have been yours. Maybe it was a word someone spoke against you that hurt you. Whatever sin was committed against you, large or small, call it back to mind. Feel the injustice over it.

God weeps over what's been done to you. He knows your pain. Still, He chooses to forgive because there is no love without forgiveness. There is no joy for God or us when we harden our hearts and live for what is fair rather than what is good.

We aren't called to forgive because someone deserves it. We forgive because love requires it. We forgive because abundant life requires it. Choose love today.

Prayer:
Ask the Holy Spirit who you need to forgive. Whether the wound was small or big, who do you need to offer grace today?

WHAT IS THE HOLY SPIRIT SAYING TO YOU?

DAY 6 3 FEBRUARY 2024

All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals, and to prayer. A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity—all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved. (Acts 2:42-47)

We were made for community. We see throughout the Bible how people would meet and do life together. In community, we find support, we find belonging, we find purpose and it's in community that we are able to grow to become resilient. It's helping one another navigate through the storms. As we gather in Life Groups, we are privileged to do life together. As we serve in our Serve Teams, we are able to make a difference in the lives of many. As we gather on a Sunday, we are able to worship God with others and this has the power to strengthen our faith, to build resilience in us.

We know that God desires for us to have people in our worlds who we do life with. We see how Jesus models this with his disciples. And as a church, we want to follow the example that Jesus sets for us.

Prayer:
How can you grow in church community this year? Do you feel God prompting you to take a Next Step like Joining a Life Group or Serve Team? As part of a Life Group or Serve Team, how could you grow in authentic relationships with others?

WHAT IS THE HOLY SPIRIT SAYING TO YOU?

DAY 7 4 FEBRUARY 2024

Let me tell you why you are here. You're here to be salt-seasoning that brings out the God-flavours of this earth. If you lose your saltiness, how will people taste godliness? You've lost your usefulness and will end up in the garbage. Here's another way to put it: You're here to be light, bringing out the God-colours in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We're going public with this, as public as a city on a hill. If I make you light-bearers, you don't think I'm going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I'm putting you on a light stand. Now that I've put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand—shine! Keep open house; be generous with your lives. By opening up to others, you'll prompt people to open up with God, this generous Father in heaven. (Matthew 5:13-16)

All of us have a longing to know what our purpose is. Why does my life matter and what am I going to do with it? Psychologists have long studied this and have come to the following conclusion: "Real life is not found in the pleasures of life – but in living out the purpose for your life."

The happiest people are often not those who have fewer problems – but those who have found TRUE meaning for their lives. The most fulfilled and happy people are those who have their eyes fixed and life anchored on something that matters – something that has real meaning attached to it. Something that is eternal. We know that this is Jesus. The key to knowing who you are is knowing who God is. And once we come to fully realise and understand this for ourselves, God calls us to share it with others. We have a role to play in helping those far from God to come to the same realisation. This doesn't mean that we necessarily need to go on long missions trips to faraway countries. Actually, it means that at our workplaces, on our schools and campuses, with our friends, we are called to be an example of what it means to follow Jesus. When we start to live with purpose, the way we live will begin to look like the life of Jesus. There should be something noticeable and different about us after meeting Jesus and before too long, those around us will begin to notice that something in you has changed! This is the perfect opportunity for us to show the love of God but also share the love of God in your world.

Prayer:
What in my life needs to change in order for those in my world to start seeing Jesus in/through my life?

WHAT IS THE HOLY SPIRIT SAYING TO YOU?

DAY 8 5 FEBRUARY 2024

Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. (Matthew 28:19)

Have you ever found yourself in this place: You want to tell a friend about Jesus. You know they don't have a relationship with God, but you have never dared to bring it up. Every time you start to work up the confidence, your thoughts are flooded with "What if they think I'm weird?", "What if I don't know what to say?" or "What if they stop being my friend?" Ultimately, you decide it's better not to say anything. You're frustrated with yourself because you know what you could have done, but you don't have the boldness to do it.

If you resonate with that scenario, know you're not alone. When we come to Acts 4, we find the early church in a situation where they needed boldness. Except for them, the stakes are higher. If they share Christ, they wouldn't just be losing a friend; they could lose their lives. The Jewish ruling council gave the order that Peter, John, and the church could no longer speak in the name of Jesus. If they broke this charge, it could result in a beating, imprisonment, or even death.

Most people would pray for God to remove the opposition if they heard a similar threat. What the church did was completely different. They did not pray for God to remove their problem; instead, they prayed for boldness. The incredible reality about this account is that God immediately answered their prayer. What was God's answer to their prayer for boldness? The baptism of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit filled every person in that meeting, enabling them to speak God's word boldly.

So, what will give you the boldness to share Christ with that friend, neighbour, or worker at the grocery store? The Holy Spirit. God desires that we will share Christ with anyone, at any time, and in any place. If you cannot do that, you need more of the Holy Spirit! As we are filled with the Holy Spirit, God will give us the boldness to go out and share the Gospel.

Prayer:
Is there someone in your world with whom you think God has been prompting you to share the Gospel?

WHAT IS THE HOLY SPIRIT SAYING TO YOU?

DAY 9 6 FEBRUARY 2024

On this rock I will build my church. (Matthew 16:18)

Jesus promises that He will build His Church and that the gates of hell will not prevail against it. The Church is not a building or a denomination but rather a community of believers. The Church is the body of Christ, and as such, it is our responsibility to care for it and to pray for it.

Knowing God's heart for His people and the certainty of Jesus' promise to build the Church, it is no surprise that it is under constant attack from the enemy. Satan is always looking for ways to divide and to conquer the Church, and he will use any means necessary to do it. It is crucial that we not only pray for unity within the Church, but that the leaders of the Church would have wisdom and discernment as they lead God's people.

Ultimately, when the Church advances, the Gospel advances. And when the Gospel advances, people are saved. God is glorified through the work of His people, and when we gather together, His presence is magnified. So let us not grow weary in praying for the Church, that it may continue to be a light in the darkness and a beacon of help and hope to all who are lost.

Prayer:
Dear Heavenly Father, I lift Edge Church to You. Cover Your Church and protect it from the attacks of the enemy. I pray for supernatural protection over Ps Daniel and the rest of the leaders of our church. Protect their minds and hearts while building their leadership. I pray for all the people who call Edge Church home. Draw near to them as they draw near to you. Help our church maintain unity and keep our foundation rooted in the truth – Your Word. I believe even right now You will begin to bring answers and solutions for everything they are facing. May they be strengthened and know they are equipped for the task at hand. Nothing is too great for You, and I believe You are pouring Your wisdom into them even now. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

WHAT IS THE HOLY SPIRIT SAYING TO YOU?

DAY 10 7 FEBRUARY 2024

"Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. 8For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. (Matthew 7:7-8)

As Jesus continues to build His church, here at Edge Church, we are trusting that many new people begin to call Edge Church their home. The first sentence of our culture statement is so true - "a place where you belong". And we want everyone who walks through the doors to feel like they belong, that this is their church.

At the same time though, we know that when more people call Edge Church their home, it will mean we need to get even more creative with how we are able to park people. We are so grateful for our Parking Team who make miracles happen every Sunday, but we are needing God to intervene in this area. We are trusting for a solution to our current parking situation. We are believing that God will make a way where there seems to be no way.

Prayer:
Pray that we would find a creative solution for our parking and that as we approach the relevant authorities, we would find favour with speaking to the right people who may be able to assist us. Pray that our neighbours would continue to be patient with us as we navigate finding the best parking solution. Pray for our Parkers – thank God for them and the challenging task they have.

WHAT IS THE HOLY SPIRIT SAYING TO YOU?

DAY 11 8 FEBRUARY 2024

We will not hide them from their children, but will declare to the next generation the praises of the LORD and His might, and the wonders He has performed. (Psalm 78:4)

The Next Gen has always been a big focus for us as Edge Church. Let it not be said that during our lifetime, we allowed a generation to fall victim to the lies of the enemy. Instead, let us cover the next generation in prayer and steward the influence the Lord has given each of us. Let us stand on the Word of God and encourage a generation to not only know the truth, but also to seek the truth all the days of their lives.

Equipping a generation to know the truth first requires that we ourselves both know and walk in truth. Knowing truth means experiencing Jesus by accepting His teachings and living in faithful obedience to His commands.

As an older generation, we have the responsibility to care for and pray over each of the young people in our church. Radical Resilience, especially in our young people, is modelled by those that are older and have walked a bit further on their discipleship journey. We are called to forge meaningful relationships across the generations!

Prayer:
As you have a role to play in forging meaningful intergenerational relationships, ask God to give you a sense of urgency and to help carry the burden for our Next Gen. Pray for all those serving in our Next Gen Serve Teams. Ask God to strengthen and encourage them. Pray also that He would continue to send the right people to say yes and join these teams.

WHAT IS THE HOLY SPIRIT SAYING TO YOU?

DAY 12 9 FEBRUARY 2024

Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take. (Proverbs 3:5-6)

As we seek God's Kingdom first, He will provide vision and direction for our paths. At times, we may have all relied on directions or maps to guide and lead our paths to a new destination. We can have a destination in mind, but without direction to reach our destination, we can feel lost. When we choose to acknowledge God in all of our ways by seeking His will, He will provide direction. During times of prayer and fasting, we consecrate ourselves to Him allowing ourselves to grow closer in relationship with Him. It can sometimes be difficult to see or understand God's purpose, vision, and direction for our lives. When we choose to acknowledge God in all of our ways by seeking His presence, He will reveal vision. God speaks through intimacy and a relationship with Him!

The Bible says we can trust the Lord to give us a vision for our future. He will also lead our steps with divine direction. Although we may have a plan for our lives, ultimately God is faithful in directing our path and giving us wisdom and vision! We humble ourselves to ask for more of His vision and to direct our lives in accordance with His purpose.

Prayer:
What are you believing God for in 2024? How will Radical Resilience help you step into all that God is calling you to this year?

WHAT IS THE HOLY SPIRIT SAYING TO YOU?

DAY 13 10 FEBRUARY 2024

Everyone on this earth will remember you, Lord. People all over the world will turn and worship you, because you are in control, the ruler of all nations. (Psalm 22:27-28)

Imagine if Christians across the globe took time each and every day to pray for God to move in and through their country. Perhaps our world might look different than it does now. If you currently mourn the state of our country, it is important to pause and to remember the promises we read in Psalm 22: God is sovereign, but until He returns, we can and should pray for our country and its leaders.

Paul, in 1 Timothy 2:1-4, demonstrates how we are to pray for our leaders. He encourages us to pray for kings and for all those who are in authority as a way of living in peace and in holiness. Notice that he does not recommend we pray only for those in authority that we like or agree with. Instead, he calls us to pray for all leaders with grateful hearts and with the advancement of the Gospel in mind. As Ps Daniel spoke about, we are still called to honour our leaders, even when we don't always agree with them.

Prayer:
God, today I pray for our government. I pray blessing on their households and families. I pray for those in authority to surrender to You to lead and guide them. I pray You would give them wisdom to lead and for peace and healing to flood our nation, and the truth would prevail. Move in ways that are beyond what we could ask for, dream of, or imagine because that is the kind of God You are. Work all things for good for those who love You. I pray those in authority will surrender to You. I pray Your Name would become known and You would do a supernatural work in our nation, as we become desperate for more of You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Pray for, and give honour to, all those who are in authority in our Government. Pray for our President as he leads our country, our Premier of the Western Cape, Mayor of Cape Town and our local ward councillors.
With Elections coming up this year, pray for peace in our country and that the right officials, with a genuine heart to care for our people, will be elected into office.

WHAT IS THE HOLY SPIRIT SAYING TO YOU?

DAY 14 11 FEBRUARY 2024

Our prayer for you, is that as you have gone on this journey for the last 14 days, that you would begin to form virtues and habits that will help you become a Radically Resilient Disciple. We hope you've experienced intimacy with God in a new way, and that you have found how prayer truly changes everything: our hearts, minds, attitudes, perspectives, our families, workplaces, cities, and our plans. We want to leave you with a powerful passage from Romans 12:1-2 as you continue to grow in Christ. As we look forward to this year, with the theme of Radical Resilience in mind, be encouraged with this portion of scripture, our anchor verse for the year:

So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for Him. Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what He wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you. (Romans 12:1-2)

Prayer:
Pray that God will help you to live with Radical resilience.
Develop perseverance and grit.

WHAT IS THE HOLY SPIRIT SAYING TO YOU?

SHOW THE LOVE OF GOD

LOVE GOD
LOVE PEOPLE

SHARE THE LOVE OF GOD

EDGE
CHURCH